Los Angeles Times

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CARLIN STIEHL For The Times

JENNIFER ROGERS, Will Rogers' great-granddaughter, takes in the ruins of the humorist's ranch house in Pacific Palisades.

Will Rogers' home: What now?

At his century-old Pacific Palisades ranch house, fans of the famed cowboy-humorist tried to preserve his legacy. Then everything burned.

By Hailey Branson-Potts

The sun had just set on the West Coast on Jan. 7 when Jennifer Rogers' phone pinged in Oklahoma.

What played on her screen was a 14-second video message: A dark, smoky sky. A friend speaking, his voice steady and sad, as he pointed toward the orange glow of the fast-encroaching Palisades fire.

"OK, Jenn, it's in the park," he said. "Without a doubt."

The park — named after Rogers' great-grandfather — was Will Rogers Historic State Park in Pacific Palisades. A two-story wooden ranch house, the last place the cowboy-humorist had called home, stood there.

After watching the video, Jennifer Rogers, who lives near her great-grandfather's grave site in Claremore, Okla., "just put my phone on silent and sat and cried."

AL SEIB Los Angeles Times

IN A 1927 letter to his architect, Rogers said he wanted the cream-colored house to be a simple, box-like structure.

The fire destroyed Will Rogers' century-old house, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. And it incinerated his white-and-green stable with its stately central rotunda.

In the surrounding park — 186 wooded acres cut with ocean-view hiking and equestrian trails — more than 200 trees planted in the 1920s and '30s at Rogers' behest were so badly charred they soon will be removed, according to California State Parks officials.

Four months after the fire, a portion of the still-closed park is being used as a processing site for

[See **Rogers,** A9]

State gained people again in 2024

California saw its population grow for second straight year after an exodus during pandemic emergency.

By Terry Castleman

California's population increased for the second consecutive year, with much of the growth coming to the state's biggest cities, according to new data from the state Department of Finance.

The latest numbers for calendar year 2024 confirm the end of the so-called California exodus that saw the Golden State's population shrink for the first time in decades.

Seven of the state's 10 largest cities recorded population growth as they bounced back from the shrinking seen earlier in the pandemic, which hit hardest in most of the state's urban centers.

By the end of 2024, the state's population nearly eclipsed its pre-pandemic peak, but was still about 9,000 people short of the high-water mark from April 2020, reflecting slow growth in the years since then.

From April 2020 to January 2022, the state lost about 360,000 residents, according to the data released by the Department of Finance on Thursday. California added about 108,000 people in 2024 after adding nearly 200,000 in 2023. If growth continues,

[See **Population,** A8]

Disruptive scene for screenwriters

Recent graduates struggle to break into film, TV as industry shrinks

By Malia Mendez

Since the start of the year, Brandy Hernandez has applied to nearly 200 entertainment jobs.

The 22-year-old film school graduate, who works as a receptionist at the Ross Stores buying office in downtown Los Angeles, said that for most of those applications, she never heard back — not even a rejection. When she did land follow-up interviews, she was almost always ghosted afterward.

"I knew that I wouldn't be a famous screenwriter or anything straight out of college," said Hernandez, who graduated from the USC School of Cinematic Arts in 2024. But she thought she'd at least be qualified for an entry-level film industry job.

"It shouldn't be this hard," she kept thinking.

[See **Screenwriter,** A12]

ROBERT HANASHIRO For The Times

YOUNG screenwriters like Brandy Hernandez, left, Peter Gerard and Lore Olivera face a tough market as strikes and the rise of streaming have taken a toll.

3 quit in protest of deputy's plea deal

Prosecutors resign after offer by new U.S. attorney in Lancaster excessive force case.

By Brittny Mejia,
James Queally
and Keri Blakinger

Several federal prosecutors — including the chief of the Public Corruption and Civil Rights Section — have submitted their resignations after a plea deal offered by the new U.S. attorney in Los Angeles to a sheriff's deputy who had already been found guilty of using excessive force.

Two sources confirmed to The Times that Assistant

NPR stations Trump aims to

Trump unsure on due process rights

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CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

MAIL carriers Rick Ellis, left, and Frank Bajenting prepare for their routes at the Long Beach Post Office last summer. The Postal Service is planning to cut 10,000 positions as it works to modernize operations.

Get ready for changes in mail, package deliveries

With the Postal Service and UPS expecting major job cuts, here's what to know about potentially longer waits and operational shifts

By Karen Garcia

Jobs for thousands of letter and package delivery workers at the U.S. Postal Service and UPS could be cut this year, with both looking to slash costs and streamline operations as the effects of President Trump's tariffs and digital innovation ripple through the economy.

But what that means for people who have a package to ship or who are waiting for an important bill or letter may depend on where they live.

Here's what we know so far.

JUSTIN SULLIVAN Getty Images

UPS PLANS to cut 20,000 jobs this year as part of a reconfiguration that includes more automation.

How many jobs are being cut?

The chief executive of United Parcel Service recently announced that the company will cut 20,000 jobs this year, or about 4% of its global workforce, and plans to close 73 distribution facilities by the end of June.

"We are executing the largest network reconfiguration in UPS history," the company said in a statement. "This strategic initiative will optimize the capacity of our network to align with expected volume levels and enhance productivity through additional

[See **Mail**, B4]

Arcadia leader sheds rare light on questions of China influence

Mayor pro tem has been under fire for her former campaign manager's Beijing ties.

By Rebecca Ellis

ROBERT GAUTHIER L.A. Times

MAYOR PRO TEM Eileen Wang at City Hall.

After being sworn in as second-in-command of the Arcadia City Council, Eileen Wang addressed a controversy that has taken a back seat in the months since the Eaton fire devastated nearby Altadena.

"We broke up the fiance relationship," Wang said of her former campaign manager, Yaoning "Mike" Sun. "We keep the friendship."

Wang said their romantic relationship ended last spring, eight months before federal prosecutors charged Sun with conspiracy and acting as an illegal agent of a foreign government.

The April 15 statement from Wang, now mayor pro tem of the San Gabriel Valley city, was one of the few times she has publicly addressed the charges against Sun, who allegedly worked with China to cultivate Wang, in hopes that she would rise in politics and help promote pro-China policies, including opposition to Taiwan.

Facing calls for her resignation, Wang had vowed in January not to step away from the council, emphasizing that she was "not responsible for the action of others."

Wang did not respond to several calls and emails from The Times. The other four council members also did not respond to emails.

"I have a lot of questions," said former Councilmember Sheng Chang, who ran against Wang in 2022 and recalled being stunned by the fundraising prowess and plum endorsements of "the new kid on the block."

Arcadia City Manager Dominic Lazzaretto released a short statement soon after Sun was charged in December, saying Wang was cooperating with the FBI and that Sun "had no involvement whatsoever with City of Arcadia business or decision-making."

Wang, who immigrated to the U.S. from China three decades ago, was never charged, and it's unclear whether she was aware of the alleged scheme. In a criminal complaint against Sun, prosecutors identified her only as "Individual 1."

The complaint provides a rare glimpse into the covert influence the Chinese government allegedly seeks to have on politicians and organizations in the San Gabriel Valley, a landing spot

[See **Arcadia**, B2]

Bass seeks to close agency serving youths

It would be absorbed by larger department, and some functions would be preserved.

By Noah Goldberg

Four years ago, Los Ange-

Voices ANITA CHABRIA COLUMNIST

Hot Trump summer arrives on the heels of winter of our discontent

Power grab escalates with military maneuvers, dubious arrests and sanctuary city crackdowns

President Trump dropped an executive order last week about "sanctuary cities," of which California has many.

Not to mention we are a sanctuary state.

Alone, that order should grab the at-

But stack it with a few other recent Trump moves, and we have what promises to be a summer filled with dissent, fear and a flurry of military maneuvers, questionable arrests and attempts to hobble efforts to protect immigrants, documented or not

Battle over news website erupts in dueling lawsuits

Dispute centers on control of Knock LA and journalists' rights to their work.

By Matt Hamilton and Julia Wick

The question of who controls a small independent media outlet has roiled Los Angeles' left for more than a year.

Last week, the clash over Knock LA exploded into the legal system, with dueling lawsuits that allege copyright and trademark infringement, defamation and

politics, Ground Game LA also soared.

Meghan Choi, Ground Game LA's co-founder and executive director, led Nithya Raman's and Eunisses Hernandez's insurgent City Council bids, helping them unseat incumbents. The group also rallied behind Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martínez and City Controller Kenneth Mejia's successful campaigns in 2022.

But there were deep fissures between the organization's leadership and some of the journalists who had become synonymous with Knock LA's work.

Camacho and Castle

A sad ending for famed humorist's house

[**Rogers,** from A1]
trees and shrubs removed from the fire zone, according to the state parks department.

The site also is being used to pulverize concrete removed from burned properties, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

As for the twisted remains of Will Rogers' 31-room ranch house: They had not yet been cleared as of Friday.

For Jennifer Rogers, the question she faces the most is the one that's hardest to answer: What comes next?

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It is hard to overstate the grip Will Rogers had on Americans in the early 20th century.

Rogers was the country's first multimedia superstar: Nationally syndicated newspaper columnist. Book writer. Radio broadcaster. Hollywood's highest-paid actor and the star of more than 70 movies.

The "Cherokee Kid," as he was known, was born in 1879 in Indian Territory near modern-day Oologah, Okla.

With his country twang and aw-shucks mannerisms belying a keen intellect, he was the lasso-roping star of vaudeville and the Broadway stage. And his wry political commentary is widely considered the precursor to the modern late-night TV monologue. ("All I know is just what I read in the papers," he once quipped, "and that's an alibi for my ignorance.")

"He was born in the Old West, the dying days. And by the time he's 21, it's the 20th century, and everything is changing and he's adapting like some kid jumping on the internet in the '80s or YouTube in the aughts," said Larry Nemecek, board president of the nonprofit Will Rogers Ranch Foundation. "He became the king of all media while it was being invented."

In 1919, Hollywood — the up-and-coming center of the film industry — came calling.

Rogers, fresh off his first silent film, "Laughing Bill Hyde," moved with his wife, Betty, and their four children to Southern California at the behest of movie producer Samuel Goldwyn. A few years later, the couple bought more than 200 undeveloped acres in the Santa Monica Mountains, in the nascent community of Pacific Palisades.

There, the family built what started as a six-room weekend cabin. It was added onto over the years until it became a 31-room, year-round residence.

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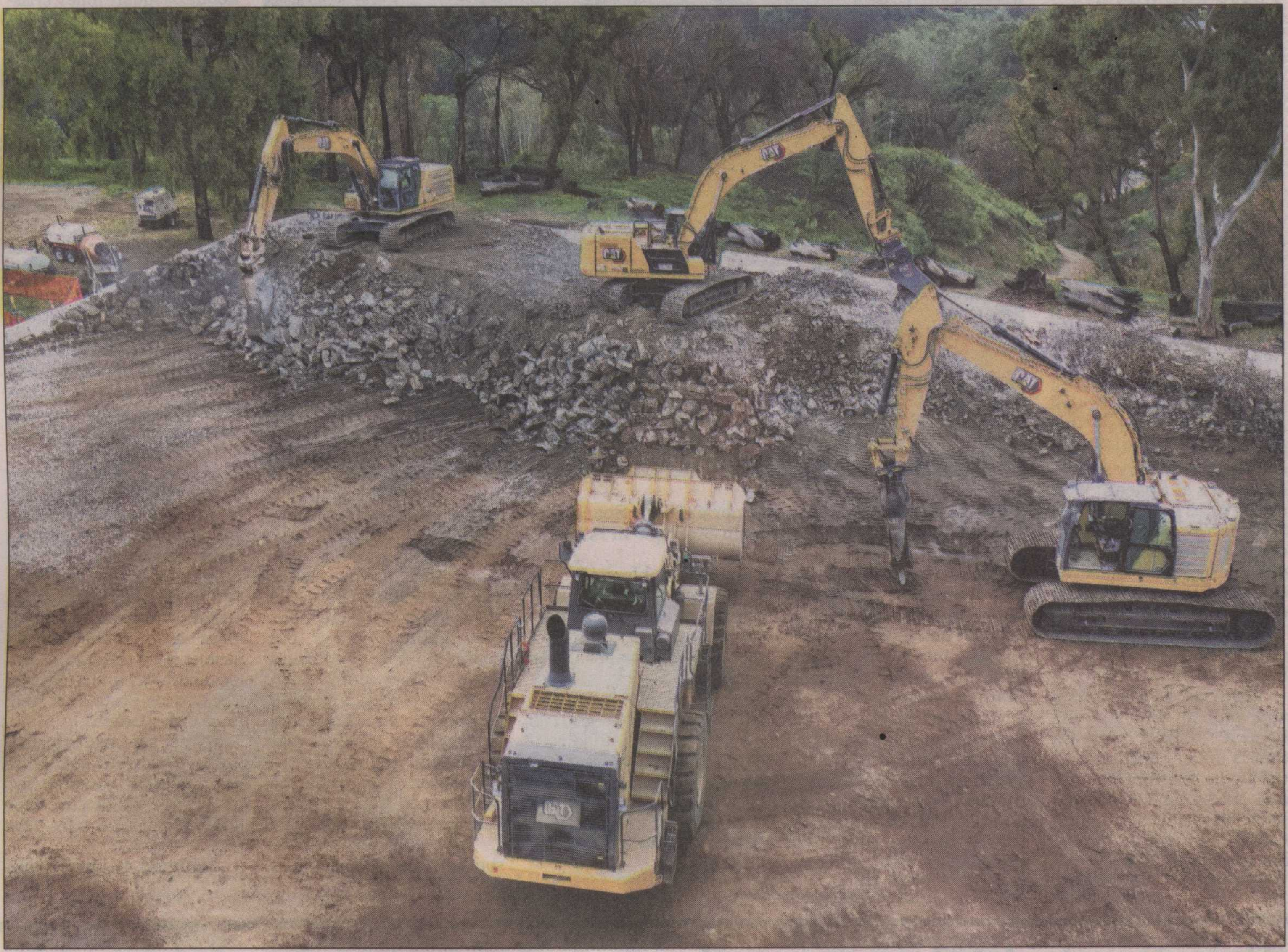
The house had a wagon-wheel chandelier and barn-like rafters — and a high ceiling that Rogers had raised while his wife was traveling abroad so he could practice roping indoors.

There were Navajo rugs; custom, western-style Monterey couches and chairs; and hundreds of books, including signed first editions by Theodore Roosevelt, Helen Keller and Harry Houdini. A stuffed roping calf given by a friend, artist Ed Borein, who had grown tired of Rogers lassoing him, stood in the living room



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"We didn't really talk much about Will Rogers. My family was very humble," said Rogers, 59, who lived in New Mexico and Texas in her youth. When her late grandfather, Jim, spoke of him, "he always said, 'When Dad would come home, he wasn't Will Rogers; he was just Dad.' "

Rogers did not visit the ranch until she was about 21. And in 1991, when her grandfather took her family to New York City for the debut of the musical "The Will Rogers Follies," based on the humorist's life, she "sat there on Broadway in disbelief."

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"I realized he's still alive. He's *still* alive," Rogers said of her great-grandfather.

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Rogers joked that "my ancestors didn't come over on the Mayflower, but they met the boat." He never shied away from his Cherokee heritage at a time when many did not talk about it out of fear of persecution, Hoskin said.

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Rogers, he would explain, was always gnawing on a wad of gum. Even during one of his most famous speeches, a nationwide broadcast dubbed "Bacon, Beans and Limousines" recorded at the downtown L.A. studios of the radio station KFI in 1931, in the midst of the Great Depression.

Then-President Hoover had invited him to speak. Wearing a cowboy hat and bow tie, Rogers chews his gum. He jokes. He's amiable but outraged, delivering a blistering critique of the country's high unemployment rate, bread lines and uneven wealth distribution.

"It wasn't the working class that brought this condition on at all," he declared. "It was the big boys themselves who thought that this financial drunk we were going through was going to last forever. ... There's as much money in the country as there ever was. Only fewer people have it."

Amid the state budget crisis in 2008, then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger — who, along with celebrities such as Billy Crystal and Tom Cruise, once boarded his horses at the park — threatened to close Will Rogers State Historic Park and dozens of other money-losing state parks with flagging visitation. The governor eventually backed away from the proposal.

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It remains unclear when Will Rogers State Historic Park will reopen.

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"The concrete that we are recycling is generally the foundation of a home," Patrick Moes, a spokesman for the Army Corps, said in an email to The Times.

The concrete, he said, is washed at its original property before being brought to the park, where it is ground into tiny pieces while being sprayed with water to mitigate the spread of dust.

Marty Greenstein, a State Parks spokesman, said in a statement to The Times that "this is not a waste disposal site — long-term storage is not occurring, nor is the site processing hazardous materials."

Tejada said the removal of debris from Rogers' house and barn and other structures is expected to be completed by early June.

In the park, roughly 400 trees, mostly non-native — and notoriously flammable — eucalyptuses, were considered part of the cultural historic landscape. The fire killed about 200, primarily around Inspiration Loop Trail, Tejada said.

"Will had directed them to be planted to line all the pastures and roads," Tejada said. "The benefit was they grow tall and straight. Back in the day, they were used as wind breaks, and they grow quickly."

Although State Parks officials are "trying to retain as many of the original trees as possible" because of their historic significance, there are ongoing discussions about whether different tree species should be planted, she said.

The 99-year-old polo field, where Rogers played with friends including Walt Disney and Clark Gable, is still a grassy green oasis. But the announcer's booth and goalposts burned. So did the equipment used to maintain what is the only outdoor polo field in Los Angeles County, said Felice Densa, manager of the Will Rogers Polo Club, which has about 80 players.

"I am determined to reopen this club, one way or the other," she said. "We can rebuild the club. And we will. As soon as they start letting us in."

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On a recent Thursday, Jennifer Rogers stepped gingerly across ruins of the ranch house.

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The ranch, Betty wrote in her memoir after her husband's death in a 1935 Alaska plane crash, "was the joy of his life."

Shortly before her death in 1944, Betty deeded the ranch to the state.

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On the morning of Jan. 7, Barbara Tejada joined fellow State Parks employees from across California at Malibu Creek State Park for a long-planned fire training session.

"We were all here, and then, of course, it was Santa Ana wind conditions," said Tejada, a cultural resources program supervisor. "Everyone was on edge. We all had our fire gear. ... We've all got basic fire training."

Just after 10:30 a.m., attendees' phones started pinging: A fire had started in the Palisades.

Tejada and a colleague grabbed boxes, tape, moving blankets and bubble wrap from the Malibu Creek facility. They took off for Will Rogers' ranch house, slowly weaving around traffic gridlocked on Pacific Coast Highway.

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The concrete, he said, is washed at its original property before being brought to the park, where it is ground into tiny pieces while being sprayed with water to mitigate the spread of dust.

Marty Greenstein, a State Parks spokesman, said in a statement to The Times that "this is not a waste disposal site — long-term storage is not occurring, nor is the site processing hazardous materials."

Tejada said the removal of debris from Rogers' house and barn and other structures is expected to be completed by early June.

In the park, roughly 400 trees, mostly non-native — and notoriously flammable — eucalyptuses, were considered part of the cultural historic landscape. The fire killed about 200, primarily around Inspiration Loop Trail, Tejada said.

"Will had directed them to be planted to line all the pastures and roads," Tejada said. "The benefit was they grow tall and straight. Back in the day, they were used as wind breaks, and they grow quickly."

Although State Parks officials are "trying to retain as many of the original trees as possible" because of their historic significance, there are ongoing discussions about whether different tree species should be planted, she said.

The 99-year-old polo field, where Rogers played with friends including Walt Disney and Clark Gable, is still a grassy green oasis. But the announcer's booth and goalposts burned. So did the equipment used to maintain what is the only outdoor polo field in Los Angeles County, said Felice Densa, manager of the Will Rogers Polo Club, which has about 80 players.

"I am determined to reopen this club, one way or the other," she said. "We can rebuild the club. And we will. As soon as they start letting us in."

::

On a recent Thursday, Jennifer Rogers stepped gingerly across ruins of the ranch house.

She pointed out what she recognized: Rusted springs from the bed in Will's upstairs office that crashed through the ceiling. Yellow tiles from her great-aunt Mary's bathroom.

"My brother got married right in front of this tree," she said, pointing to a charred trunk in front of the house. "I'm still in shock — still in shock."

Three chimneys still stand, and Rogers said there are plans to bring in scaffolding and secure them. The visitor center in Will's garage has extensive damage but potentially could be rebuilt, she said. And the roughly 150 items rescued from the ranch house are stored in Sacramento.

Rogrers Rogers hopes that some kind of tribute to her great-grandfather will eventually stand where the house once did.

But the truth is, she said, "I don't really know what's next."

LOS ANGELES CITY
FIRE
DEPARTMENT

CARLIN STIEHL For The Times

JOE FIELD of Los Angeles City Fire Station 69 looks at the burnt remains of Rogers' home. Jennifer Rogers hopes that some kind of tribute to her great-grandfather will eventually stand where the house once did.

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Los Angeles Times

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Migrants offered $1,000 to leave the U.S.

Those in the country without authorization may use an app to tell the government that they will self-deport.

By Jenny Jarvie

The Trump administration announced a plan Monday to try to ramp up the number of deportations: paying unauthorized immigrants $1,000 if they return to their home country voluntarily.

The Department of Homeland Security called the plan a "historic opportunity for illegal aliens," noting in a news release that it would also pay for travel assistance.

Any immigrant who used the Customs and Border Protection Home App to inform the government that they plan to return home, the department said, would receive a $1,000 payment after the government had confirmed their return.

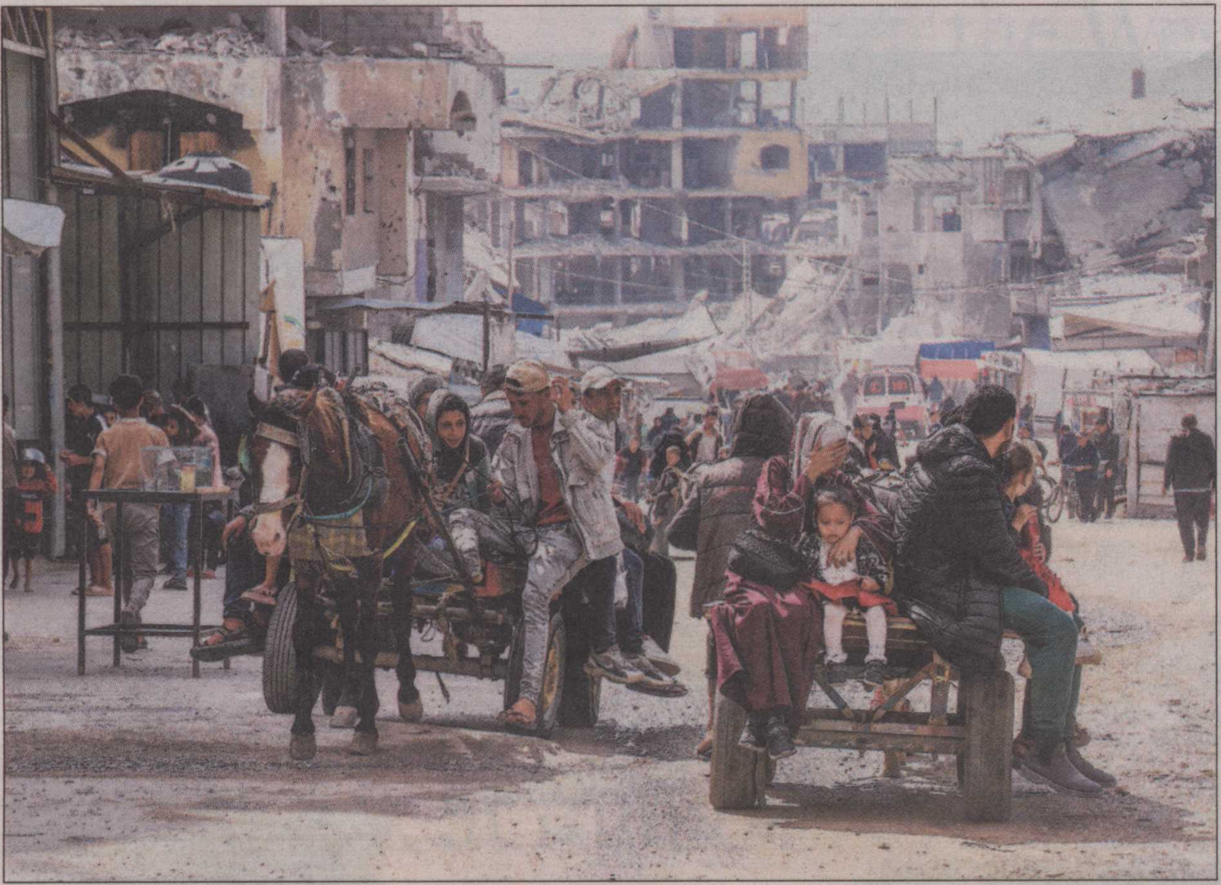
"If you are here illegally, self-deportation is the best, safest and most cost-effective way to leave the United States to avoid arrest," Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said in a statement. "This is the safest option for our law enforcement, aliens and is a 70% savings for US taxpayers."

President Trump has made mass deportations — a key platform of his 2024 election campaign — a priority in his first three months in office. But so far, the actual number of immigrants deported under his Republican administration has slightly lagged behind the number deported under his predecessor, Democratic President Biden, as fewer immigrants are now attempting to cross the U.S. border.

Hiroshi Motomura, a law professor at UCLA who specializes in American immigration and citizenship, said the U.S. is not the first nation to try to persuade immigrants to leave the country. Over the years, other countries, such as Germany and Japan, have offered financial incentives for immigrants to self-deport.

"Some of the calculus is what you're seeing now, which is it's much cheaper to

[See **Self-deport, A4**]



Abed Rahim Khatib Anadolu

ISRAEL'S Cabinet approved a plan to expand Gaza operations after the military said it was calling up tens of thousands of reserve troops. A blockade has forced Gazans to rely on basic transportation amid fuel shortages.

Israel plans to take over Gaza, relocate Palestinians to south

Move would cause more upheaval and worsen humanitarian crisis. Measure may be aimed at pressuring Hamas for a deal.

By Tia Goldenberg and Sam Mednick

TEL AVIV — Israel approved plans Monday to seize the Gaza Strip and to stay in the Palestinian territory for an unspecified amount of time, two Israeli officials said, a move that, if implemented, would vastly expand Israel's operations there and probably draw fierce international opposition.

The new plan, which was approved in an early-morning vote by Israeli Cabinet ministers, also calls for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to move to Gaza's south. That would probably amount to their forcible displacement and exacerbate an already dire humanitarian crisis.

Details of the plan were not formally announced, and its exact timing and implementation were unclear. Its approval came hours after the Israeli military chief said the army was calling up tens of thousands of reserve soldiers. The plan may be another measure by Israel to try to pressure the militant group Hamas into making concessions in ceasefire negotiations.

A third person, a defense official, said the new plan would not begin until after President Trump wraps up his expected visit to the Middle East this month, allow-

[See **Gaza, A4**]

Trump's California ratings stay low

Poll shows 68% of registered voters disapprove of his job performance

By Michael Wilner

WASHINGTON — President Trump remains deeply unpopular in California after his first 100 days in office, with conservatives and liberals alike expressing concern that U.S. courts can effectively serve as a check on his power, according to a new UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies poll co-sponsored by The Times.

Overall, the poll, conducted during the last week of April, found that 68% of registered voters in California disapprove of the president's job performance and believe the country is on the wrong track.

Republicans in California, who make up roughly a quarter of registered voters, continue to support the president's policies. But 65% of registered voters across the state believe that Trump's actions have "gone beyond his constitutional authority as president," including 24% of Republicans and 66% of independents, the poll found.

Looking forward, voters across party lines said they lack confidence that the U.S. judicial system can serve as a check against Trump "should he overstep his constitutional authorities," with only 13% of total registered voters expressing strong confidence in the powers of the courts.

Only 51% of voters who identified as strong conservatives, and 53% of registered Republicans, said they have any confidence in the judiciary's ability to check an overstepping president. And among the Republicans, just 27% said they are very confident, reflecting bipartisan concern over the endurance of the nation's system of checks and balances.

Since Trump took office, officials in his administration have launched a series of attacks on district court judges who have ruled against them, and have slow-walked, if not explicitly defied, several court rulings, including one order from the U.S. Supreme Court regarding the mistaken deportation of a Maryland man to a prison in El Salvador.

The poll found that up to this point, 27% of voters believe Trump has operated within his constitutional authorities, and 65% do not.

[See **Poll, A6**]

Movie industry reacts to tariffs twist

Hollywood is on the edge of its seat after President Trump floats idea of taxing foreign productions.

By Meg James and Samantha Masunaga

Hollywood executives scrambled Monday to interpret President Trump's call for stiff tariffs on movies produced outside the U.S. — a bombshell proposal that would upend how movies have been made for years.

Trump on Sunday night announced that he was authorizing a 100% tariff on movies "coming into our Country that are produced in Foreign Lands." The proposal, like many other Trump-imposed tariffs, is aimed at bringing a key industry back home.

Studios shoot many of their feature films in Canada, Britain, Bulgaria, New Zealand and Australia. Such countries offer incentives to attract high-paying jobs and get their landmarks featured on the big screen.

"The Movie Industry in America is DYING a very fast death," Trump wrote on his social media platform. "Hollywood, and many other areas within the U.S.A., are being devastated."

Studio executives were caught off guard.

Many filmmakers would like to work in the U.S. but would rather see the government institute its own national tax credit. Tariffs, many argue, would hasten the film industry's demise rather than preventing it, because they would increase costs. Plus, it's unclear how a tariff on movies would actually work.

"Nobody knows, and I don't suspect we will for a while," said one high-level film industry executive who was not authorized to comment. "Is it on domestically funded foreign productions? Is it on foreign-funded ones? Is the tariff on film revenues or film costs on those proj-

[See **Film tariffs, A9**]

Trump: Reopen Alcatraz prison
President says long-time tourist site will make way for "ruthless and violent" criminals. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Fun, festive dry run for 2028
The Rugby Sevens world championship at Carson venue gives a sneak peek of Olympic event. **SPORTS, B10**

'60 Minutes' stays the course
Newsmagazine keeps

Native tribes argue over land protection

ome without federal ecognition fear newly roposed bill could

Now, its chief fears that a newly proposed bill could significantly limit how the tribe — and dozens of others still without federal recogni-

Arseni Khachaturan Metrograph Pictures

NINA (Ia Sukhitashvili) is an emotionless obstetrician whose secret work performing abortions is under scrutiny in Georgian film “April.”

Review **TIM GRIERSON**

‘April’ is a riveting abortion drama

Déa Kulumbegashvili takes on women’s choice through tale of doctor’s predicament.

In writer-director Déa Kulumbegashvili’s disquieting second feature, a strange creature is on the loose.

We glimpse it in the first moments of “April” — this naked, humanlike being whose body resembles a sagging skin bag. Possessing no eyes, no mouth and no face, with an almost alien lurching gait, that nightmarish figure will reappear every so often, its return always upsetting and unexplained. Remarkably, the creature is only slightly more unknowable than the film’s fascinatingly opaque main character.

To call “April” an abortion drama is accurate and yet that description only barely brushes against this movie’s blending and subversion of genres.

Set in the country of Georgia, the movie (which won a special jury prize at the Venice Film Festival) stars Ia Sukhitashvili as Nina, an expert obstetrician who, as the story begins, witnesses a tragedy. Kulumbegashvili plunges us into a delivery room as an expectant mother struggles to give birth, the filmmaker’s camera shielding us from nothing as the hospital staff desperately tries to extract the child. Soon after the baby is declared dead, Nina is blamed by the woman’s husband, and Nina’s unsmiling supervisor (Merab Ninidze) launches an investigation into what went wrong.

But Nina’s concern extends beyond the possibility of losing her job. It’s an open secret that Nina privately performs abortions for those in the impoverished outlying villages. Technically, abortion is legal for up to 12 weeks in Georgia, but in this conservative, patriarchal society, it’s nonetheless practically verboten. Any investigation into Nina could expose her clandestine activities and ruin her career — not to mention her ability to help more women, either to bring life into this world or terminate it.

Such a setup suggests the potential for a thriller, but Kulumbegashvili (who previously cast Sukhitashvili in her 2020 feature debut, “Beginning”) is after something slipperier. And that starts with her conception of her protagonist, whose inner life she refuses to illuminate. Often shown onscreen in the middle distance or the background, her expressions always muted, Nina drifts through this slow-burn crisis without any palpable urgency or alarm. Emotionally, Sukhitashvili remains at arm’s length, her character’s actions inscrutable. One night, Nina drives into the countryside, picking up a random stranger and offering him oral sex. Has she done this before? And if so, what’s provoking it? The answers are left as teasingly cryptic as the shocking outcome of that nocturnal interaction.

By stripping away genre conventions, “April” eschews traditional storytelling to zero in on far more existential matters — namely, the oppressive gloom descending on Nina. Filmed in a boxy aspect ratio that visually imprisons her in her circumstances, the movie uses tracking shots as hints into its character’s mindset. When the stoic Nina is offscreen during a scene, we occasionally hear her elevated breathing, proof of the silent stress choking her. This brilliant narrative stroke weaponizes even the film’s most tranquil interludes, creating the sense that we’re watching these moments through her eyes. Cinematographer Arseni Khachaturan’s images of sumptuous Georgian landscapes — vibrant red flowers dotting an impossibly lush field — are undercut by the anxiety within the person soaking in those sights.

Kulumbegashvili’s realist style — the writer-director filmed actual births — emphasizes antiseptic hospital hallways and the cold procedural quality of Nina’s work. (The process of delivering a baby is depicted as straightforwardly as performing an abortion.) Nina’s demeanor is equally stark. Preferring to be invisible, she goes about her business assisting pregnant women while sporadically conferring with David (Kakha Kintsurashvili), a sympathetic colleague heading the fateful investigation.

Nina and David were once lovers, a fact he has never gotten over. Seated across from each other, David finally asks, “Why didn’t you marry me?” Tellingly, Nina is once again off camera when she slowly answers: “It would never have worked out. There’s no space for anyone in my life.”

We hear her, but we don’t see her. Indeed, Nina often seems just out of reach. “April” portrays her devotion to serving women in need as a noble but deadening calling, one that has caused her to withdraw into herself, perhaps as a coping mechanism to shut out the rage and helplessness she feels.

With utter naturalism, Kulumbegashvili and her star dramatize a cruel, sexist reality that’s as unescapable as that inexplicable creature that repeatedly invades the story, its faceless presence a chilling, surreal metaphor for a society preying on Nina and her patients.

Not quite a thriller and not quite a horror movie, “April” is all the more haunting for never pinning down the roots of Nina’s retreat from life while dedicating herself to improving the lives of others. Near the film’s end, she’s scolded for her illegal activities, prompting Nina to offer a terse, weary reply: “If it’s not me, it’ll be someone else.” Once again she’s not on camera, but her voice of conscience reverberates.

‘April’

In Georgian, with subtitles

Not rated

Running time: 2 hours, 14 minutes

Playing: Laemmle Royal, West Los Angeles

‘Sinners’ returns to Imax screens

By Karla Marie Sanford

“Sinners,” the genre-bending hit from writer-director Ryan Coogler, is set to be re-released in Imax 70mm from May 15 to 21 following “overwhelming popular and critical response,” Warner Bros. Pictures announced Thursday.

The film has soared at the box office, grossing more than $175 million worldwide after two weeks in theaters. Sales from Imax 70mm, which offers audiences a bigger and sharper moviegoing experience, accounted for about 20% of opening weekend box-office figures, Imax chief quality officer David Keighley recently told The Times.

“Audiences have spoken and we listened,” Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros. Pictures’ president of global distribution, said in a statement Thursday.

“If ever a film needed to be experienced in this incredible larger-than-life format, it’s ‘Sinners.’ Ryan has delivered a film that has been embraced by fans who appreciate the craftsmanship that goes into creating a film for this screen-filling format and we wanted to give everyone the opportunity to see it — or see it again — in 70mm Imax.”

The film was originally shown in only 10 Imax 70mm theaters globally.

The re-release will bring the movie back to nine North American theaters: Harkins Arizona Mills 18 & Imax in Tempe; Regal Irvine Spectrum & Imax in Irvine; Universal Cinema AMC at CityWalk Hollywood & Imax in Los Angeles; AMC Metreon 16 & Imax in San Francisco; AutoNation Imax Theater in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Imax Theatre in the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis; AMC Lincoln Square 13 & Imax in New York City; Cinemark Dallas & Imax in Dallas; and Cineplex Cinemas Vaughan & Imax in Ontario, Canada.

“The joy the audience gets from seeing the film in the Imax 70mm format is like no other,” Taylor Umphenour, an Imax 70mm film projectionist, told The Times in an email.

“So much work goes into these film runs from all involved. It’s wonderful to be projecting these sold-out shows with the highest presentation standards for incredibly grateful audiences.”

Patrick Caldwell, the projectionist at Cinemark Dallas, said he was “jazzed” about the re-release, and that “virtually every show here has been sold out.”

‘Miss Austen’ a masterful ode to a timeless writer

[**Review,** from E1]

dry, her irony so delicious, her observations so acute, her heroines so indomitable, her novels have lived on for two centuries. They offer a vacation destination for the mind, a world in which to luxuriate. Rich in characterization, compelling in their plots, fascinating in their social historicity, lively el, it centers on Jane’s sister, Cassandra — the title applies to either sister — whose historical claim to fame, or infamy, is that she burned the bulk of Jane’s letters after her death. (She is not made out to be a villain here.) It has many of the qualities of an Austen novel — because why else bother? — though having to adhere Hynes), who is also Eliza’s sister, who thinks they could provide material for a book on her late husband, Austen brother James (Patrick Knowles). In any case, they are mainly a device to send Cassandra, who finds and reads them secretly, into a series of flashbacks, some happy, some regretful, as she reflects upon her life

Knicks surprise Celtics with OT comeback win

New York erases a 20-point Boston lead to steal Game 1 in NBA conference semifinals. **In Sports**

Federal Reserve likely to hold steady on rates

Economists expect officials to wait for more clarity on effects of Trump's tariffs. **In Money**

USA TODAY
THE NATION'S NEWS | $3 | WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025

DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/GETTY IMAGES FOR THE MET MUSEUM

Biggest moments from Met Gala

Fashion's biggest night had plenty of standouts, from relatable comments by Teyana Taylor (left) to Rihanna's pregnancy. All the highlights. **In Life**

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Carney: Canada is 'not for sale'

Meanwhile, lawmakers scrutinize border, tariffs

Bart Jansen, Riley Beggin and Francesca Chambers
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump met at the White House with Canada's newly elected Prime Minister Mark Carney on May 6 as lawmakers scrutinized his agenda for tougher border security and tariffs.

The two North American leaders started their meeting with glad-handing but also, from Carney, with force: Canada, he said, is "not for sale."

Trump praised Carney on his political comeback, saying he, Trump, was "probably the greatest thing that happened to him." The Liberal Party had been trailing considerably in polls but won after Carney seized on Trump's rhetoric targeting Canada as the "51st state."

Nonetheless, as the meeting began, Carney called Trump "a transformational president," pointing to his "focus on the economy, with a relentless focus on the American worker."

> **"I believe in data, and there is nothing in the data that shows that we are in a recession."**
>
> **Scott Bessent**
> Treasury secretary

Trump suggested in a post on Truth Social ahead of the meeting that he would ask Ottawa to increase its defense spending and close a trading gap with the United States but would not push a controversial plan to annex the country.

On Capitol Hill, members of two House Appropriations subcommittees ostensibly questioned Trump's Cabinet secretaries about his spending proposals for the Department of Homeland Security and the Treasury Department. In reality, the two separate hearings went well beyond dollars and cents to criticize or defend the administration's immigration and finance policies.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told lawmakers that the United States is not in a recession.

"I believe in data, and there is nothing in the data that shows that we are in a recession," he responded to a

Catholic faithful conduct Requiem Mass for Pope Francis at the Bienheureuse Anuarite parish in Goma, in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, on April 26. As of 2023, there are 281 million Catholics in Africa. ARLETTE BASHIZI/REUTERS

Africa plays a big role in Catholicism's future

For new pope, continent's expansion as fertile ground for Christianity will be focus

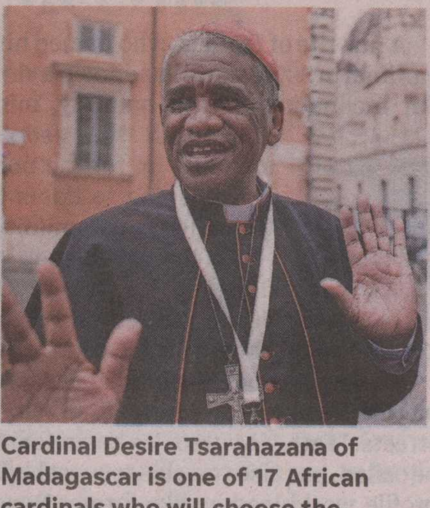
Marc Ramirez
USA TODAY

African outreach was among Pope Francis' legacies, religious observers say, with the late pontiff's mission of hope and mercy inspiring fervor among the continent's young people in visits to nations such as Kenya, Uganda and Madagascar.

Those measures have proven crucial for the Roman Catholic Church, said Stan Chu Ilo, an associate professor of Catholic studies at Depaul University in Chicago. Ilo pointed to his native Nigeria, where Catholicism has been in some ways outpaced by an explosion of Pentecostal Christianity.

"One thing Pope Francis did was to animate and empower young people in Africa, and today Catholicism there is driven by youth who saw in Pope Francis something you didn't often see," he said. "The church was always telling them threats and negative things. But Francis energized the people."

Recent years have seen Catholicism's geographic balance



Cardinal Desire Tsarahazana of Madagascar is one of 17 African cardinals who will choose the next pope. MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES

More coverage online

The papal conclave begins May 7. Follow live updates and watch a livestream from outside the Sistine Chapel at **usatoday.com**.

What's in a name?

Each new pope can take on a different name, one infused with

Likely candidates to succeed Francis span progressive, conservative range

Jorge L. Ortiz and Phaedra Trethan
USA TODAY

Pope Francis left a legacy as a reformist and a staunch advocate for the marginalized, especially immigrants and the poor.

While continuing to fight for underprivileged people may come as a natural endeavor for his successor, the Catholic Church is not known for welcoming change, and Francis faced resistance to his more progressive positions on social issues.

Among the key questions in the vote for the next pope will be whether he'll aim to continue Francis' drive toward inclusivity or guide the church in a conservative direction in matters such as divorced Catholics, LGBTQ+ acceptance, women's role in the clergy and the handling of sexual abuse cases.

Here's a look at some of the leading names being circulated as candidates to become the new pope in the conclave that begins May 7 – with the

MOVIES

‘Thunderbolts*’ saves up its post-credits surprises

Brian Truitt USA TODAY

Spoiler alert! We’re discussing important plot points and the ending of Marvel’s “Thunderbolts” (in theaters now), so beware if you haven’t seen it yet.*

This is not a drill: We’ve got a new team of Avengers. And they’re probably not the folks you expect.

In “Thunderbolts*,” a B-team of Marvel Cinematic Universe supporting players levels up to the A-list, though they have to navigate past traumas – and tussle with one of their own – in an emotional final act.

The movie features Bucky Barnes (Sebastian Stan), the former Winter Soldier, and Russian assassin Yelena Belova (Florence Pugh) forming a team – named after the lowly pee-wee soccer squad Yelena was on as a kid – with fellow antiheroic misfits Red Guardian (David Harbour), John Walker (Wyatt Russell) and Ghost (Hannah John-Kamen).

They meet Bob, a guy whose amnesia comes with impressive superpowers, though this friend becomes an enemy when he’s turned into the hubristic Sentry by CIA director – and main Thunderbolts arch enemy – Valentina Allegra de Fontaine (Julia Louis-Dreyfus). But Sentry breaks free from her control and then, fueled by Bob’s repressed emotions, transforms into a shadowy figure called The Void, putting New York City and our heroes in dire straits.

Let’s deep dive into all the best spoilers, from that surprise ending to a future-shock post-credits scene leading right to “Doomsday.”

What happens in the ending?

The Void spreads an eerie darkness across the Big Apple, seemingly erasing New Yorkers from existence and leaving a body-sized black mark in their place. In a desperate gambit, the Thunderbolts enter The Void itself, and each hero is forced to live out a past trauma or regret – even Bob. To win the day, the teammates rally around Bob and give him a group hug, putting everything back to normal.

They find Valentina trying to scurry away on the street and go to confront her, but it’s a trick: They walk right into an impromptu press conference, where she proclaims, “Ladies and gentlemen, meet the new Avengers!” The team is taken aback, though Yelena whispers in a worried Valentina’s ear, “We own you now.”

Bob (Lewis Pullman) is a guy with a definite dark side in “Thunderbolts*.” PROVIDED BY MARVEL STUDIOS

Director Jake Schreier reveals that on the day of filming, they sent extras home early before Louis-Dreyfus did her takes, uttering the A-word to keep it a secret. “It’s just a name, right? But still, you feel something,” the filmmaker says.

Why does ‘Thunderbolts*’ have an asterisk?

Comic-Con 2024 was the first time the title was touted with a mystery punctuation mark. Marvel president Kevin Feige said at the time that he wouldn’t talk about the asterisk’s meaning until the movie’s release. And this is why: Before the credits roll, the “Thunderbolts*” title appears and has changed to “The New Avengers.”

“I don’t think there’s another studio or another kind of movie that has the eyeballs on it where you could do that, which is kind of a crazy move after you’ve spent all that money marketing a movie called one thing and then reintroduce it as something else,” Schreier says. (It’s an homage to the twist at the end of the first “Thunderbolts” comic book in 1997: A new superhero group calling themselves Thunderbolts saves New York, but it’s really the villainous Masters of Evil in disguise.)

So will “The New Avengers” now be on the Blu-ray, post-release merch and everything else going forward? “You might see some billboards shift a little bit on Monday morning,” Schreier teases.

Are there any post-credits scenes?

There are actually two. The midcredits scene features Red Guardian – in his civilian clothes, not the usual Soviet super-soldier garb – in a grocery store cereal aisle. Now national heroes, the Thunderbolts have made the cover of a Wheaties cereal box and he tries to impress a stranger by showing it to her. “That’s me on the box!” he exclaims proudly as she walks off, weirded out.

The more important one comes at the very end of the credits. Set 14 months later, the scene catches up with the new Avengers – clad in spiffy gear with the trademark “A” on it – in their headquarters. Bucky is helping Yelena lead the team, which is apparently now locked in a copyright battle with Sam Wilson, who seems to want to start his own non-governmental Avengers squad. (Wearing a tracksuit with “New Avengerz” on it, Red Guardian calls Captain America a “dumb litigious man.”)

Bob is off to the side, not able to use his powers to keep The Void at bay – “I did the dishes, though,” he says. With a space crisis at hand, Yelena gets a warning of an extra-dimensional craft approaching and they view a screen that shows a sleek spaceship entering orbit. “Cool ship,” Walker cracks as it rotates to reveal the Fantastic Four logo on the side.

It’s the biggest set-up yet for the upcoming event movie “Avengers: Doomsday” (out May 1, 2026), which promises the Fantastic Four, a number of Avengers and even a bunch of X-Men. And it also gives Pullman somewhere to go next in exploring his character’s conflicting sides.

“The deeper you dive on one part of Bob, the more questions arise from the other two,” he says. “Every chapter has its own arc, so it’s really exciting to see what the arc will be in ‘Doomsday.’ ”

Met Gala

Continued from Page 1D

USA TODAY had an exclusive spot on the red carpet, so follow along for all the top moments from the night:

Rihanna arrives to debut her baby bump

Rihanna arrived to cheers and camera flashes at 10 p.m., close to an hour after the last attendees headed inside to the event. Though Mindy Kaling, Angel Reese and Megan Thee Stallion jetted out before her arrival, Rihanna’s entrance was not to be missed.

She came with an important plus one: her just-announced pregnancy was on full display. Rihanna accentuated her baby bump with a voluminous pinstripe gown and a massive hat on top of her cascading braid.

A cropped suit jacket, detached collar and padded jacket attached at her waist was set off by polka dots in the form of an ascot and a pocket square. The wait, as usual for the fashionably late star, was absolutely worth it. She smelled sumptuous as she walked by, celebrating her Marc Jacobs look and her co-chair man, A$AP Rocky.

Teyana Taylor is so relatable

After co-hosting for hours, Taylor knows that her Met look is “looking,” but it’s not the same as when she first arrived on the carpet.

“I took off my jacket, my back hurt, babe. I’ve been standing up in that outfit all day. I’m just trying to get up in there, get the food, get to the bathroom – I’ve been holding my pee for the last three hours,” she said. “Life is great,” she added with a smile. “Life is great.”

Diggs found his Met Gala look on Pinterest

NFL star Stefon Diggs told USA TODAY about his Bianca Saunders look: a black suit with a light brown and cream fur coat on top. “We collaborated on a look. Black designer, very proud moment, trying to give her her flowers, she’s done some great things,” he said.

As for his inspiration for the look: “I actually was on Pinterest and was trying to find what works and saw a

white feathered cape over a bejeweled gown.

She was flanked by her son Evan Ross, who helped her adjust her oversized feathered hat.

Debbie Allen channels Black elegance

Debbie Allen told USA TODAY on the blue carpet that she was channeling a “night of elegance and Blackness and cultural identity.”

When asked her ideal Black dandy, she didn’t miss a beat and quickly said: “Norman Nixon,” looking at her husband of more than four decades. “You’re looking at him.”

Gigi Hadid is a vision in gold

Gigi Hadid, fresh off celebrating her 30th birthday and making her relationship with Bradley Cooper Instagram official, was gilded in gold with an old Hollywood updo.

Her gold gown was custom Miu Miu and celebrated icon Josephine Baker.

F1 driver Lewis Hamilton in all white

Lewis Hamilton breezed to the top of the Met steps, almost as quickly as he drives his race cars, in a cream-colored tuxedo and matching bow tie and hat, adorned with a golden brooch.

Domingo was embodiment of dandy fashion

Colman Domingo arrived in a cape and later revealed a perfectly tailored suit underneath.

Domingo rounded out the early arrivals of the co-chairs in an expertly tailored, glittering black and silver suit jacket.

The actor followed up the look with a more understated – but equally fabulous – ensemble featuring a pearl-embroidered blazer, polka-dotted handkerchief tie and floral brooch.

LaLa Anthony pays tribute to Virgil Abloh

LaLa Anthony, one of the Vogue livestream hosts, was in archival Off-White by the late Virgil Abloh.

Wintour arrives on the Met Gala red carpet

Coercive control

Continued from Page 1D

Why can’t coercive control be discussed?

Subramanian has not publicly explained why coercive control cannot be discussed during the trial. But legal experts say it likely has to do with the fact that only seven states in the U.S. have laws about coercive control – California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Wisconsin – but New York, where Combs was charged, does not.

Coercive control is a newer term in the legal world, and is only considered a form of domestic abuse in those seven states. And even in those states, Cocchiola notes it’s still “very hard” to prove.

When it comes to the Diddy case, there’s a chance the prosecution could motion for permission to use the term as the trial continues, says Joan Meier, a clinical law professor and director of George Washington University Law School’s National Family Violence Law Center. If not, she believes it’s possible to talk around it at the trial and still make an impact.

“If the expert is allowed to testify about why victims don’t ‘leave’ or stay connected, that’s mostly attributable to coercive control, so I trust that they will get it in that way,” Meier speculates.

Why talking about coercive control matters

Still, talking about coercive control in relation to prominent cases or figures is “really important because it makes sense of things which otherwise don’t seem to make sense,” Meier says.

Experts in abuse say even people who specialize in helping victims of domestic violence can miss nuance in these conversations because psychological control isn’t widely thought of as dangerous and damaging as physical control. Media coverage related to coercive control can help raise awareness.

“People always say, ‘Why did you stay?’ ” Cocchiola says. “And the reality is that victims actually are holding onto hope that things might get better, or they’re living in a state of fear that things will definitely get worse when they leave.”

Plus, asking someone “why did you stay?” when

6 storylines to follow as teams push for NBA Finals

Can Cavs bounce back after series opening loss? Did Thunder have too much rest? **In Sports**

Met Gala: Highlights from fashion's biggest night

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How tariffs can affect your grocery shopping list

Tax increases create uncertainty for families and companies importing food. Here's what could happen to fruits, coffee and seafood. **In Money**

GETTY IMAGES

USA TODAY
THE NATION'S NEWS | $3 | TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2025

West Virginia miners support Trump's calls to restore industry but worry layoffs put workers at greater risk

Robert Cash, a longtime West Virginia coal miner, wants to continue his work safely. CHRIS KENNING/USA TODAY

Job cuts complicate hopes for coal revival

Chris Kenning
USA TODAY

FOSTER, WV – Robert Cash, a third-generation coal miner, prays each morning with his fellow miners before going underground for a long shift.

In the coalfields of Appalachian West Virginia, everyone hopes the mine will keep giving up its coal to pay rare six-figure salaries. But their prayers ask that they return safely to the surface.

While fatal accidents have fallen over the years, cases of black lung disease resurged in the past two decades. It has laid low colleagues and neighbors. Cash, 55, fears it will arrive for him one day, too.

Cash is among those here hoping that President Donald Trump's promises to revive the coal industry's fortunes after years of decline from cheaper natural gas, rising mining costs and environmental regulation will pan out. But in recent weeks, those hopes have been complicated by worries Trump's federal cost-cutting is simultaneously weakening mine safety.

In April, Trump's federal workforce cuts hit the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), hobbling the work of a black lung surveillance and prevention program, according to union and health workers.

In addition, the administration delayed a new rule set to go into effect April 14 that would cut in half exposure limits of silica dust, a driver of

See COAL, Page 6A

WEST VIRGINIA
NEEDS NIOSH

Protesters in Morgantown, West Virginia, decry National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health job cuts, saying it will hurt NIOSH's ability to protect miners.
PROVIDED BY CATHY TINNEY-ZARA

Diddy jury selection could be drawn out

Interest high as rapper's case gets underway

Marco della Cava
USA TODAY

The day of reckoning has arrived for Sean "Diddy" Combs, whose trial on a range of sexual assault charges could result in the one-time billionaire spending the rest of his once-gilded life behind thick steel bars.

As he entered the Manhattan courtroom on May 5, Combs hugged his lawyers as they, and the prosecution, began the laborious task of selecting the 12 people who could free or doom the rap mogul.

Combs, whose empire once extended to fashion, traded the jail garb he has donned since September for a navy blue sweater over a white collared shirt. Dark glasses shielded his eyes, while salt-and-pepper tufts flecked his goatee.

Jurors were questioned one at a time by the judge, the prosecution and defense, their stated mission to try and seat a jury of 12 in just three days. May 5's slow pace could put that timeline in jeopardy, as finding jurors who remain unbiased in such a high-profile case could prove challenging.

Judge Arun Subramanian even joked that the process could feel as long as the famously lengthy "Lord of the Rings" movie series.

The rapper's connections with celebrities from Jay-Z to Jennifer Lopez bring increased interest to the case. A

See TRIAL, Page 2A

President Donald Trump suggested on May 4 that Alcatraz Island could be reopened as a prison.
KIRBY LEE/IMAGN IMAGES

Jockeying for pope begins before conclave

Michael Loria
USA TODAY

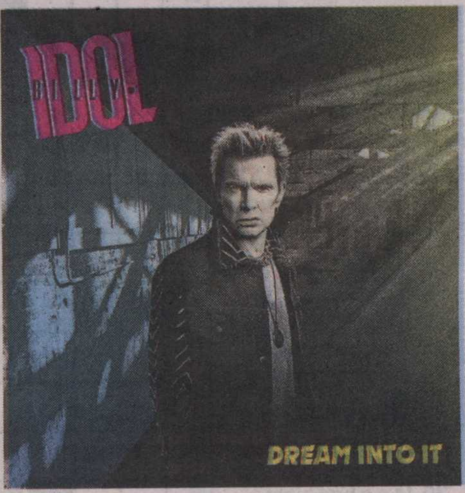
Trump's idea for reopening

MUSIC

Idol is still sneering after a life of excesses

Melissa Ruggieri
USA TODAY

Avril Lavigne, right, joins Billy Idol on the track “ ’77” on his new “Dream Into It” album. SKYLER BARBERIO FOR BILLY IDOL



Billy Idol’s “Dream Into It” is his first full-length studio album in more than a decade. PROVIDED BY SACKS & CO

Billy Idol knows he’s taken too many risks.

Whether overindulging in drugs and alcohol or seriously injuring himself after speeding through a stop sign on his Harley Davidson, there have been more than a few moments to warrant reflection.

His upcoming documentary, “Billy Idol Should Be Dead,” premieres at the Tribeca Film Festival June 10, and its bracing title is hardly hyperbole.

“I’m lucky to be here,” he tells USA TODAY. “If I was doing today what I was doing in the ’80s, I would be dead. A lot of people didn’t make it out.”

Idol, who will turn 70 in November, has learned to temper his penchant for excess, crediting exercise, a good diet and trying to remain “California sober” as his supporting behaviors.

He’s also tried to instill some self-discipline, abiding by the rule of, “If I do anything too much, don’t carry on the next day.”

Why Idol tempered his wild side

Along with the documentary, this year includes other high-profile activities for Idol. He has a thoughtful new album, “Dream Into It,” which was released on April 25, and a lengthy tour with Joan Jett & The Blackhearts, which kicked off on April 30 in Phoenix and rolls through the United States and Europe through Sept. 25 in Los Angeles.

Idol met longtime friend Jett after a Germs/Dead Kennedys concert at the Whiskey a Go Go in 1978, when his then-band, the respected punk outfit Generation X, was doing a round of publicity.

Along with touring together, Jett joins him on the new album’s melodic rocker “Wildside.” Idol confirms that even as age and wisdom have quelled his demons, some personality traits are inescapable.

“I most definitely still have a wild side,” he says. “There’s still the guy who doesn’t mind risking things, just trying to keep it in check. The guy who is willing to move to another continent to start his life again or gamble his future a lot of the time.”

But Idol enforced moderation in his routine after having kids. Brant, Willem and Bonnie are all adults now and Idol is a gleeful grandfather of four, aged 2 to 5.

“I’m the head of the family,” he says proudly.

Idol loved working with Avril Lavigne: ‘She nailed it’

The latest single from “Dream Into It,” a loose concept record with songs sequenced to track the different phases of Idol’s life, is “ ’77,” a punchy blast of caffeinated pop-rock featuring Avril Lavigne.

Idol said daughter Bonnie is a massive fan of Lavigne – “We were in a restaurant and Avril was there and my daughter was fan girling over her,” he recalls with a laugh. Idol says he always appreciated her music.

“The way she sang this song, she really nailed it. She’s fantastic. It’s been a lot of fun doing promotion with her,” he says.

For the upcoming tour, Idol will have guitar consigliere Steve Stevens alongside him, his faithful collaborator since the early ‘80s breakout smashes “Rebel Yell,” “White Wedding,” “Eyes Without a Face” and “Flesh for Fantasy.”

“When I met him, I realized I could do anything because he could (play) anything,” Idol says, agreeing that Stevens has been the main constant in his musical life. “We grew up with eclectic records and it opened that door for me. We could do ballads or rockers and we’re still making eclectic music.”

Idol thanks fans who stuck with him ‘through thick and thin’

Idol and Stevens – whose shock of ebony hair is almost as iconic as Idol’s platinum spikes (“I dry it upside down,” Idol says is the key) – were nominated for the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame this year, but missed the cut.

Idol didn’t know if he’d join the 2025 class at the time of this interview, but was unruffled when pondering the outcome.

“If I don’t get in, it wouldn’t be the end of the world because there’s always another year,” he says. “But if we do, it’s a chance to thank your fans. They’re the reason you’re here and they stuck with you through thick and thin – and believe me, some parts of it were thin! – and that’s the reason I’m still going.”

Britton

Continued from Page 1D

In real life, Britton is a mother to her teenage son Yoby, whom she adopted from Ethiopia in 2011. The following year, she moved to Nashville (where she didn’t know anyone) for the ABC drama and worked 16- to 18-hour days. Her experience as a single parent inspired Britton to create “The Motherhood,” a Hallmark Channel reality series enlisting the help of experts to make life easier for single moms, debuting May 5 (Mondays, 8 ET/PT).

Britton describes “The Motherhood” in the show’s premiere as “a community of single moms created to provide support to one another when you need it the most.” Britton helped when a friend who worked in costumes on “Nashville,” a single mom to four kids, forgot to give her son lunch money. The actress dropped off money at his school.

“And it was in that moment that I thought, ‘Gosh, it would be so great to create some kind of resource and community for single moms, where people could volunteer and just one day a week go grocery shopping for them or take care of the kids, or just do something that would give that mom a little bit of

But when I suddenly was really the mother of an infant child and I was all by myself, it was quite an eye-opening experience.

“The feeling of being alone in it was really profound,” she says. “And let me be clear, this is with me having the resources to be able to afford help. That, to me, is just an enormous privilege and blessing, and also, it doesn’t necessarily fill all the void. There’s still a lot of feeling of, ‘What am I supposed to do?’ and ‘I don’t know how to do this,’ which I think, by the way, that resonates for all parents.”

The series premiere introduces viewers to Tasha, a professor with a 5-year-old daughter, Busy. Tasha’s living room is overrun with her daughter’s toys, and Tasha admits she “realized I don’t see myself in this house anymore.” She needs to create a space for herself in her home and reconnect to her identity outside of being a mom.

An “overwhelmed and overextended” Rochelle is the focus of Episode 2. She has two young sons, Jacob and Owen, and works several jobs to support her family. Rochelle manages a foundation and is a parent aide for foster care. She has also started a T-shirt design company and balloon decorating business to save money for her sons’ college. Rochelle tells Connie, “I want my boys to

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Russian assassin Yelena Belova (Florence Pugh) meets the mysterious Bob (Lewis Pullman) in “Thunderbolts*.” CHUCK ZLOTNICK/ MARVEL STUDIOS

Pullman

Continued from Page 1D

Pullman’s Sentry proved to be a challenging hat trick

The movie reveals that Bob is a troubled meth addict who signed up to be experimented on by CIA director Valentina Allegra de Fontaine (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) and become a super soldier. Thought to be dead, he teams up with the Thunderbolts but is later turned into the Sentry, with a cape and supersuit to match his Superman-like powers. Another aspect of Bob is revealed as The

pher, sister Maesa is a singer and songwriter, and brother Jack designs masks and puppets – and his parents instilled in him “the idea that you don’t have to choose one thing,” he says.

Acting “allows you to continue learning things that you would never really choose to do,” Pullman says. “I’ve become incredibly mediocre at so many different things from having a month or two of training, whether it be roping or rowing or paddle boarding, or surfing. It pushes you to explore certain cavernous areas of yourself that normally you would neglect.”

Pullman does return to his other loves, too: After recently wrapping a movie, he came home for the first time in two months and immediately sat at

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THE VOICE OF DOWNTOWN LA SINCE 1972

Welcome to the 5th Stage

Mourning has no timetable

By Ellen Snortland
LA Downtown News Columnist

"My wife and I object to your phrase, 'I lost everything,'" Mr. Patronizing Putz wrote in a PM on Facebook. He continued, "We lost our home in the fire, too, and we make sure we remain grateful for our lives." I answered, "Puh-leaze! 'Everything' obviously refers to material items, you nattering naybob of a nincompoop. I have always despised you, and this comment verifies why. You're mansplaining gratitude to me? Do you really think that Ken and I don't deeply appreciate not dying? I'm blocking you, and I hope you have a miserable life."

Of course, this was a fantasy retort I only wish I'd said. Instead, I used it as inspiration for this week's column.

No one likes complainers; I certainly don't. I used to have the famous feminist George Bernard Shaw quote on my office wall before the fire as a reminder of what's important in life:

"This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; the being a force of nature instead of a feverish selfish clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no 'brief candle' to me. It is sort of a splendid torch which I have a hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it over to future generations."

Am I a feverish, selfish clod of ailments and grievances? I've looked into my heart and... no, I am not. I'm in mourning, as are many people I know and love in Altadena. It's a terrible shock to lose everything: For the literal police, that applies to "things" as some people did lose their lives. We are not only grieving the loss of our homes, but also the loss of those valiant souls and our community.

The Fifth Stage of Grief is anger. I am outraged by what has happened (and why), which explains my hair-trigger temper these days and my struggle to suppress lashing out at a clueless person and his thoughtless comment.

I'm still constantly triggered: someone mentions a photo album, and my heart sinks when I realize mine are all gone. Someone mentions a painting at their home, and I feel an instant knot in my stomach about all the paintings we lost, or brings up a dinner party, which reminds me of our dinner parties. Almost anything someone mentions in casual conversation, even if it's completely innocent and requires no sensitivity, can generate a cascade of loss for me.

I am not alone. The other survivors I speak with have the same reactions, except for one person we know who is relentlessly cheerful, a tactic we know he uses to protect himself. Also in pain are the people I know who didn't lose their homes but had to move out because of remediation for ash and smoke damage, only to find out their homes have been burglarized. Right now, Altadena is a veritable free-for-all for scumbags preying on the vulnerable; burglaries are up 450% from pre-fire levels. This isn't happening in the Palisades because of well-heeled folks who can afford private security, along with their strict entrance protocols that don't allow just anyone to enter the neighborhoods after dark.

Therapists have told me that the wound we sustained from losing everything will last a long time. Over time, the pain will become less acute, eventually turning into a scar. I keep wondering when my skin will thicken. So far, every time I return to Altadena to check on our place, I am a mess for an hour or two. The day the Army Corps of Engineers bulldozed our entire lot sent me into a weep-a-palooza that lasted for two days. My therapist assures me this is a normal response. Maybe Mr. Patronizing and his spouse aren't cycling through the stages of grief because they might be too numb to feel it.

Regarding the last part of Shaw's quote — "(Life) is sort of a splendid torch… I want to make it burn as brightly as possible…" While the fire metaphor is apt, I do not want to numb myself with food, drugs, or alcohol. I need to allow my feelings to simply exist as they are. I finally have something to look forward to, but I'll write next week about what that is.

Quick reminder: on Monday, May 12, Dastan Kahlili, son of CalEarth's late genius architect, Nader Kahlili, will speak at the Altadena Library, which miraculously survived the Eaton Fire. He will discuss the fire-, wind-, rain-, and earthquake-resistant structures Mr. Kahlili developed to endure the climate crisis. If you or someone you love is unsure about how to rebuild, come out to hear him. The Altadena Library is located at 600 E. Mariposa St., Altadena, CA.

If you're interested in my online creative writing class, email me at ellen@beautybitesbeast.com. Many of you have asked if there is a GoFundMe campaign to help us recover from the devastating loss of our home and possessions. The answer is yes! You can donate at bit.ly/Ellen-Ken.

Hey you! Speak up!

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Court News

Compiled by LA Downtown News Staff

San Gabriel woman indicted for allegedly trafficking counterfeit goods

A San Gabriel Valley woman was charged in a four-count federal grand jury indictment alleging she imported and sold counterfeit luxury goods, including Gucci, Louis Vuitton, and others.

Chaoyan Zhang, 33, of San Gabriel, is charged with four counts of trafficking in counterfeit goods or services.

Her arraignment is scheduled for May 8 in U.S. District Court in DTLA.

According to court documents, in February, law enforcement learned that Mitchelle Inc., where the defendant worked, was importing and distributing counterfeit luxury goods. The business was located inside a superstore in San Gabriel.

Among the counterfeit items allegedly trafficked were luxury-brand clothing, accessories and other items, including Gucci, Valentino, Chanel, Christian Dior and Louis Vuitton. The boxes listed Hong Kong as the sender location. Zhang allegedly sold approximately nine counterfeit luxury brand items to a buyer for approximately $490.

Zhang was arrested on April 9 on a federal criminal complaint. Law enforcement seized all counterfeit items from Mitchelle Inc., which — had they been the genuine article — would have been valued at approximately $1 million.

Indictments contain allegations. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

If convicted, Zhang would face a statutory maximum sentence of 10 years in federal prison for each count.

Homeland Security Investigations' (HSI) Global Trade Investigations Trade Fraud Group is investigating this matter.

Assistant U.S. attorney Joshua J. Lee of the General Crimes Section is prosecuting this case.

Defendants arrested on Wildfire Disaster Relief fraud charges

Five defendants have been arrested on federal criminal complaints alleging they fraudulently obtained federal disaster-relief funds by falsely claiming their properties were damaged in the wildfires that struck Los Angeles County in January, the Justice Department announced.

The allegedly false claims were made in the wake of the Eaton and Palisades fires that started on Jan. 7. Together, the wildfires burned nearly 60,000 acres, destroyed more than 16,000 structures and resulted in the deaths of 30 people. As a result, the president approved a Major Disaster Declaration, which prompted the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to develop a program to provide financial assistance to fire victims.

Victims of the Eaton and Palisades fires, including renters who lost their residences, could qualify for a one-time payment of $750 noted as a FEMA relief payment, $43,600 for other needs assistance (personal property, transportation, medical, etc.), and housing assistance for up to 18 months at varying rates. Homeowners are also potentially eligible for additional relief up to $43,600 for home repair.

Each defendant listed below is charged with fraud in connection with major disaster or emergency benefits, which carries a statutory maximum sentence of 30 years in federal prison.

United States v. Hogan

Deanniah Hogan, 32, of Compton, on Jan. 26 allegedly submitted a false claim for federal disaster assistance related to the Palisades Fire, listing an address in the Pacific Palisades neighborhood of Los Angeles as the purportedly damaged dwelling in which she claimed to live and rent. After approving the application, FEMA sent a total of approximately $17,351 to Hogan, including for personal property damage and displacement assistance.

The actual Pacific Palisades homeowner — and resident who lost the property in the fire — later confirmed to law enforcement that the property was not being rented out at that time.

Hogan was arrested and made her initial appearance Thursday in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles. A federal magistrate judge ordered her released on $10,000 bond. Her arraignment is scheduled for May 20.

Assistant U.S. attorney Solomon Kim of the Major Frauds Section is prosecuting this case.

United States v. Johnson

Delvonne Dashon Johnson, 31, of the East Hollywood area of Los Angeles, on Feb. 4 allegedly submitted a fraudulent claim for FEMA benefits related to the Palisades Fire, listing an address in Pacific Palisades as his purported dwelling that he owned. Later in February, FEMA sent Johnson a total of approximately $64,138 in federal disaster relief.

On April 2, law enforcement interviewed the property's actual owner, who stated she had lived at that residence since 2015, that it was her primary residence, and she was living there at the time of the Palisades Fire. She also said she never rented the property out to anyone and did not know Johnson. She further said when she submitted a disaster assistance application to advise authorities that her house had been destroyed, FEMA notified her that someone already filed such a claim on her property's behalf.

Johnson made his initial appearance this afternoon in U.S. District Court in DTLA.

Assistant U.S. attorney Steven M. Arkow of the Major Frauds Section is prosecuting this case.

United States v. Lowe

Keandre Lowe, 21, of Long Beach, on Jan. 22 allegedly submitted a fraudulent claim for FEMA benefits, claiming that he rented an Altadena property that was destroyed in the Eaton Fire. By Feb. 13, FEMA had submitted approximately $28,286 in disaster relief to Lowe.

The actual property owner later confirmed to law enforcement that they were residing in the home at the time and since 2007 had not rented the property out to anyone.

Lowe was arrested and made his initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles. A federal magistrate judge ordered him released on $10,000 bond. Lowe's arraignment is scheduled for May 27.

Assistant U.S. attorney Steven M. Arkow of the Major Frauds Section is prosecuting this case.

United States v. McIntre

Zenalyn McIntre, 38, of Sherman Oaks, on Jan. 20 allegedly submitted a false claim for federal disaster relief by claiming that she was a renter of a residence in Pacific Palisades that was destroyed in the Palisades Fire. Eight days later, she submitted additional documents online to FEMA, including her California driver's license — which listed a Sherman Oaks address — and a natural gas utility bill that appeared to be fake.

Based on her false claim, FEMA distributed approximately $25,229 in disaster-relief funds to McIntre.

McIntre made her initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles.

Assistant U.S. attorney Sarah S. Lee of the Major Frauds Section is prosecuting this case.

United States v. Woods

Katrina Woods, 33, of Maricopa, Arizona, on Jan. 30 allegedly submitted a fraudulent claim for disaster assistance, listing a nonexistent Altadena address as her primary residence that purportedly was destroyed in the Eaton Fire.

FEMA eventually disbursed approximately $23,441 in disaster relief to Woods, who also made reservations through FEMA to stay at two hotels — one in DTLA, the other in Hawthorne — during February and March paid for by FEMA. On March 10, FEMA discontinued lodging for Woods at the hotel in DTLA where she was staying.

Woods had been in state custody in Arizona on an unrelated matter and is expected to make her initial appear-

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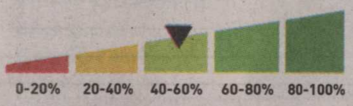

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Dave Cutler/AP

Trump's Bitcoin Gambit

His U.S. crypto reserve is innovative and could lure new players into the realm. That could propel prices

BY HARRISON MILLER
INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY

White House plans for a U.S. strategic bitcoin reserve fired up optimism among the world's crypto enthusiasts. But until this past week, the currency itself barely flickered as recent trade war and tariff news whipsawed markets. Industry experts project a vast, eventual impact on the bitcoin price and the cryptocurrency industry. This past week's action may underscore those expectations.

Bitcoin prices rebounded nearly 27% from an April 9 low, erasing more than half their decline from the 2025 peak above $105,000 in January. Analysts say the creation of a strategic reserve could quietly spark a race to amass bitcoin.

President Donald Trump signed an executive order on March 6 to establish a bitcoin strategic reserve and a separate digital asset stockpile compiled of other cryptocurrencies. Formed largely from assets seized by the Treasury and other federal departments, the reserves have been instructed to find "budget-neutral" ways in which to acquire or otherwise own assets, but not to sell them — to simply hold them, like a digital Fort Knox.

A federal digital currency reserve suggests a new tier of investors entering the crypto market. In the current market, Virginia-based Strategy (MSTR) owns more bitcoin than the five largest estimated holdings by national governments, including the U.S. — combined. Among private companies, Block.one holds the largest bitcoin stash.

SEE BITCOIN ON A9

INVESTING ACTION PLAN

STOCKS TO WATCH

Five Stocks Near Buy Points

With the stock market rallying strongly in the past week, investors should be looking to add exposure, but gradually. Exelixis (EXEL), MercadoLibre (MELI), Charles Schwab (SCHW), Boston Scientific (BSX) and SAP (SAP) are all near buy points. Uruguay-based MercadoLibre, already up 30% this year, is just above a buy point in a double-bottom base. The other four stocks are just below entries, while holding solid support at their 50-day moving averages. Exelixis and MercadoLibre have earnings reports due in a couple weeks. Schwab and Boston Scientific have already reported.

ECONOMIC CALENDAR

May Opens With A Data Rush

A busy week for economic data features big GDP and inflation reports and potentially pivotal payroll numbers. Forecasts say Q1 GDP, out Wednesday, will show growth slowing to a 0.9% annualized rate from 2.4% in Q4, according to FactSet. The personal income and outlays report will include the core PCE price index, the Fed's primary inflation measure. Economists expect a 0.1% rise, lowering the 12-month inflation rate to 2.6%. Friday's April jobs report is expected to show nonfarm payrolls up by a net 150,000, while the unemployment rate holds at 4.2%

E-COMMERCE EARNINGS

Amazon: A Trade-War Canary

Amazon.com (AMZN) reports first-quarter earnings late Thursday. Analysts expect a 39% earnings gain, a fifth straight slowdown, on an 8% rise in revenue. The focus for investors will likely be on Q2 guidance, given that 145% tariffs on goods from China just kicked in. Chief Executive Andy Jassy's commentary will be closely parsed. Analysts with Citizens JMP said Amazon's operating income will also be closely watched, given ramping investments in AI and logistics. "We expect investors will look for color around cur-

CONSUMER PRODUCTS

Tariffs Shade Apple Earnings

The impact of tariffs will overshadow Apple's (AAPL) fiscal second-quarter report on Thursday. Analysts say Apple could get a March-quarter lift from consumers buying ahead of feared tariff-related price hikes. Guidance for the June quarter and, if given, the full year will be vital, as will any news on tariffs, exemptions and production moves to India, Brazil or elsewhere.

SEE MORE INVESTING ACTION PLAN ON A2

IBD BIG CAP 20

COMPANIES 1-20

Rank	Company	Price	SMARTSELECT® COMPOSITE RATING	EPS Rtg	Rel Str Rtg	Annual EPS %Chg	Last Qt EPS %Chg	Next Qtr EPS %Chg	Last Qtr Sales %Chg	ROE	Pretax mrgn	Mgt Own %	Spn-shp Rtg
1	**Axon Enterprise** Cloud software helps law enforcement streamline investigations.	603.8	99	99	97	+2	+84	+9	+34	23	24	4	C
2	**Fortinet** Specializes in firewalls, endpoint security and intrusion detection.	101.8	99	99	96	+3	+45	+23	+17	99	37	15	B
3	**▸Zscaler** Focuses on cloud-based security; double-digit growth streak continues.	215.6	99	99	91	+4	+24	-15	+23	46	24	18	B
4	**▸Palantir** Inks deal with NATO for AI military system.	112.8	99	98	99	+34	+75	+63	+36	23	45	6	B
5	**Amphenol** Products are used in telecom, industrial and aerospace markets.	75.85	99	98	87	+35	+58	+45	+48	26	20	2	B
6	**Sprouts Farmers Mrkt** Stores sell fresh produce, bulk foods, vitamins and supplements.	168.0	99	97	98	+25	+61	+38	+18	30	4	1	D
7	**Agnico Eagle Mines** Canada's largest gold producer completes acquisition of O3 Mining.	118.5	99	97	97	+43	+101	+42	+35	6	24	1	C
8	**Netflix** Company targets advertising to offset slowing subscriber growth.	1101.5	99	97	97	+28	+25	+44	+13	38	25	1	A
9	**▸Tradeweb Markets** Fixed-income trading specialist offers trading tools for institutions.	135.3	99	97	90	+17	+19	+21	+25	12	53	1	C
10	**Boston Scientific** Company's products address cardiovascular, endocrine, urologic issues.	101.9	99	96	92	+15	+34	+16	+21	18	25	1	B
11	**Fox Corp B** Super Bowl generated $800 million in ad revenue for media giant.	45.79	99	95	93	+27	+182	-17	+20	15	15	1	B
12	**Fox Corp A** Super Bowl generated $800 million in ad revenue for media giant.	49.35	99	95	93	+27	+182	-17	+20	15	15	3	C
13	**Heico** Manufacturer serves aerospace, industrial and defense segments.	246.0	99	95	83	+24	+39	+17	+15	14	17	14	C
14	**▸CrowdStrike** Security software leader shakes off Delta Air Lines litigation.	424.9	99	92	96	+17	+8	+6	+25	35	25	1	B
15	**Newmont** Gold producer sells two non-core assets for $850 million.	53.94	99	88	93	+22	+127	+32	+25	13	30	1	C
16	**Kinross Gold** Canadian gold miner's Q1 EPS seen jumping 135%.	14.49	99	85	97	+55	+82	+130	+27	9	19	1	C
17	**Anglogold Ashanti** Forecasts 2025 gold production of 2.9 mil to 3.22 mil ounces.	39.60	99	80	97	+84	+999	+579	+39	..	1	1	E
18	**MercadoLibre** Online marketplace connects buyers and sellers in Latin America.	2225.9	98	98	95	+23	+288	+22	+37	51	11	1	A
19	**▸Cloudflare** Partnership with Nvidia enables artificial intelligence-based apps.	121.0	98	97	94	+6	+27	0	+27	29	19	1	B
20	**ServiceNow** Develops cloud-based IT software for workflow automation.	945.3	98	97	77	+18	+18	+14	+19	33	33	1	A

INSIDE BIG CAP 20

T-Mobile Shares Retreat On Subscriber Numbers

BY RACHEL FOX
INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY

Big Cap 20 component and telecom stock T-Mobile (TMUS) had been making progress toward a few buy points. But Thursday's earnings report for the company pushed shares below a key moving average.

T-Mobile stock formed a flat base with a 276.49 entry. That entry marks the high from early March, before shares pulled back below the 21-day exponential moving average. This was followed by range-bound action that led to shares forming a downward-sloping trendline entry as well.

On Monday, April 21, shares undercut the 50-day line, but found support at the 250 level. However, due to earnings, shares retreated once again after attempting to retake this level.

In reaction to earnings after the close this past Thursday, shares plunged more than 11% Friday to around 232.

On the other hand, the stock may recover quickly and manage to take out the aforementioned buy points.

The stock certainly maintains impressive IBD Ratings, including a line that is trending higher. Also, a Relative Strength Rating of 83 is fairly decent.

T-Mobile managed to beat both its top and bottom-line estimates in the first quarter. But it added slightly fewer high-spending phone subscribers than expected, sending shares lower.

The wireless services provider said earnings per share increased 29% year over year to $2.58 on an adjusted basis. Revenue rose 6.6% to $20.88 billion from the year earlier period. According to FactSet, analysts expected T-Mobile to report adjusted earnings of $2.47 a share on revenue of $20.63 billion.

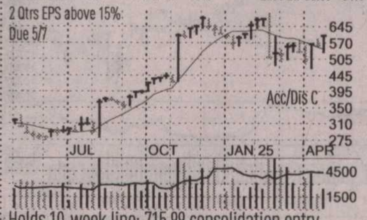
But the company only added 495,000 "postpaid" phone subscribers vs. estimates of 505,000. However, this was higher than both AT&T (T) and Verizon Communications (VZ), which added 324,000 and lost 289,000, respectively.

Additionally, T-Mobile added 424,000 wireless high-speed internet subscribers in the first quarter. It had 6.85 million 5G broadband customers as of March 31.

"All of this customer growth drove fantastic financial growth with strong net cash provided by

1 Axon Enterprise AXON

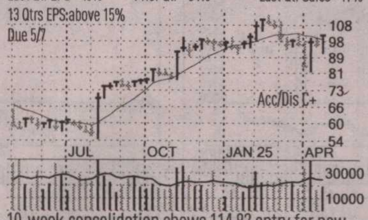
Grp32 **$603.78**
74 M Shares 99 Comp. Rating 99 EPS RS 97 ROE 23
Develops advanced electronic control devices for the law enforcement, military, corrections/consumer markets.
+41% Ann. EPS Growth PE 102 Avg. D. Vol 914,700 Debt 31%
Last Qtr EPS +84% Prior Qtr +38% Last Qtr Sales +34%



Holds 10-week line; 715.99 consolidation entry.

2 Fortinet FTNT

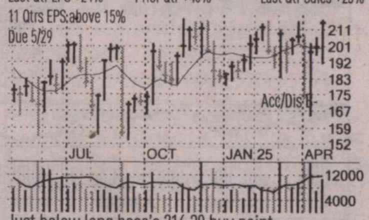
Grp11 **$101.80**
653.6 M Shares 99 Comp. Rating 99 EPS RS 96 ROE 355
Develops unified threat management systems to provide security and networking functions
+45% Ann. EPS Growth PE 43 Avg. D. Vol 5,220,000 Debt 67%
Last Qtr EPS +45% Prior Qtr +54% Last Qtr Sales +17%



10-week consolidation shows 114.82 entry for now.

3 Zscaler ZS

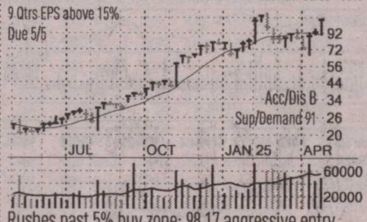
Grp11 **$215.58**
97.5 M Shares 99 Comp. Rating 99 EPS RS 91 ROE 46
Operates a massive, global cloud security architecture, delivering the entire gateway security stack
+95% Ann. EPS Growth PE 65 Avg. D. Vol 2,431,400 Debt 0%
Last Qtr EPS +24% Prior Qtr +40% Last Qtr Sales +23%



Just below long base's 216.39 buy point.

4 Palantir PLTR

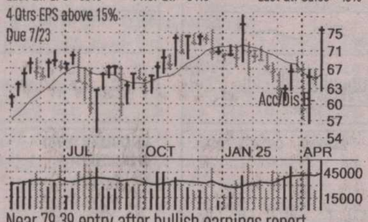
Grp33 **$112.78**
2114 M Shares 99 Comp. Rating 98 EPS RS 99 ROE 23
Develops software for institutions to protect individual privacy and prevent the misuse of information.
+83% Ann. EPS Growth PE 275 Avg. D. Vol 114,170,700 Debt 0%
Last Qtr EPS +75% Prior Qtr +43% Last Qtr Sales +36%



Rushes past 5% buy zone; 98.17 aggressive entry.

5 Amphenol APH

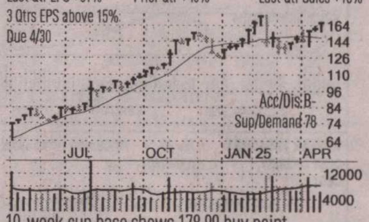
Grp151 **$75.85**
1187.5 M Shares 99 Comp. Rating 98 EPS RS 87 ROE 26
Makes electrical, electronic and fiber optic connectors, interconnect systems, cables
+12% Ann. EPS Growth PE 36 Avg. D. Vol 9,045,200 Debt 66%
Last Qtr EPS +58% Prior Qtr +34% Last Qtr Sales +48%



Near 79.39 entry after bullish earnings report.

6 Sprouts Farmers Market SFM

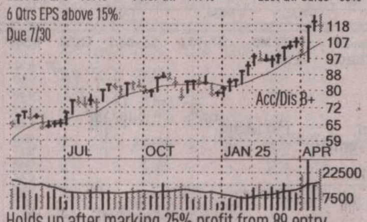
Grp22 **$168.03**
96.6 M Shares 99 Comp. Rating 97 EPS RS 98 ROE 30
perates 440 stores in 24 states offering natural and organic food items.
+20% Ann. EPS Growth PE 45 Avg. D. Vol 1,763,700 Debt 1%
Last Qtr EPS +61% Prior Qtr +40% Last Qtr Sales +18%



10-week cup base shows 178.99 buy point.

7 Agnico Eagle Mines AEM

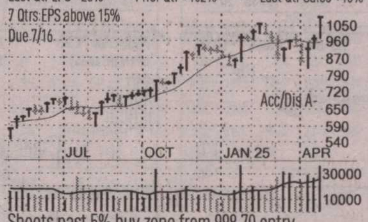
Grp1 **$118.51**
496 M Shares 99 Comp. Rating 97 EPS RS 97 ROE 6
Canadian company engaged in the production, development and exploration of gold
+23% Ann. EPS Growth PE 24 Avg. D. Vol 3,557,300 Debt 9%
Last Qtr EPS +101% Prior Qtr +117% Last Qtr Sales +35%



Holds up after marking 25% profit from 89 entry.

8 Netflix NFLX

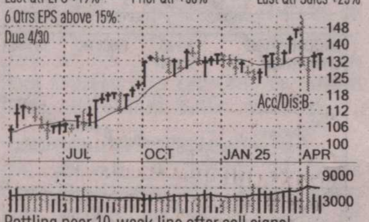
Grp4 **$1,101.53**
417.1 M Shares 99 Comp. Rating 97 EPS RS 97 ROE 38
Provides internet subscription services to watch TV shows and movies to more than 302 mil
+28% Ann. EPS Growth PE 52 Avg. D. Vol 5,392,600 Debt 56%
Last Qtr EPS +25% Prior Qtr +102% Last Qtr Sales +13%



Shoots past 5% buy zone from 998.70 entry.

9 Tradeweb Markets TW

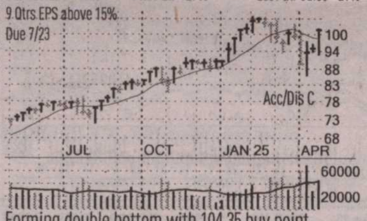
Grp35 **$135.29**
55.8 M Shares 99 Comp. Rating 97 EPS RS 90 ROE 12
Builds and operates electronic over-the-counter marketplaces in the United States and internationally.
+22% Ann. EPS Growth PE 46 Avg. D. Vol 1,262,100 Debt 0%
Last Qtr EPS +19% Prior Qtr +36% Last Qtr Sales +25%



Battling near 10-week line after sell signal.

10 Boston Scientific BSX

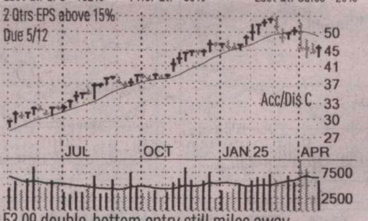
Grp71 **$101.90**
1464.3 M Shares 99 Comp. Rating 96 EPS RS 92 ROE 18
Develops medical devices for Cardiovascular, Rhythm Management, MedSurg and other interventional products.
+18% Ann. EPS Growth PE 38 Avg. D. Vol 9,112,400 Debt 41%
Last Qtr EPS +34% Prior Qtr +27% Last Qtr Sales +21%



Forming double bottom with 104.35 buy point.

11 Fox Corp B FOX

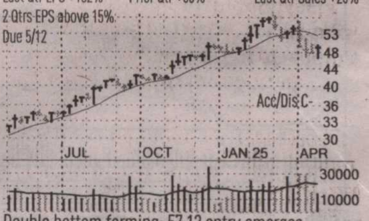
Grp26 **$45.79**
129.6 M Shares 99 Comp. Rating 95 EPS RS 93 ROE 15
Engaged in the news, sports, and entertainment content for distribution
+14% Ann. EPS Growth PE 10 Avg. D. Vol 1,363,100 Debt 62%
Last Qtr EPS +182% Prior Qtr +33% Last Qtr Sales +20%



53.09 double-bottom entry still miles away.

12 Fox Corp A FOXA

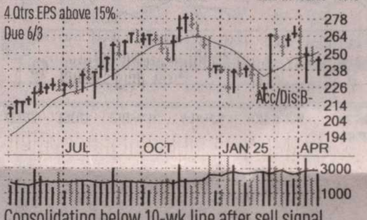
Grp26 **$49.35**
211.3 M Shares 99 Comp. Rating 95 EPS RS 93 ROE 15
Engaged in the news, sports, and entertainment content for distribution
+14% Ann. EPS Growth PE 11 Avg. D. Vol 4,642,800 Debt 62%
Last Qtr EPS +182% Prior Qtr +33% Last Qtr Sales +20%



Double bottom forming; 57.13 entry emerges.

13 Heico HEI

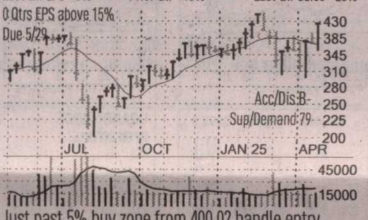
Grp5 **$246.01**
42.9 M Shares 99 Comp. Rating 95 EPS RS 83 ROE 14
Manufactures jet engine/aircraft component replacement parts and electronic and electro-optical systems
+19% Ann. EPS Growth PE 64 Avg. D. Vol 598,900 Debt 61%
Last Qtr EPS +39% Prior Qtr +34% Last Qtr Sales +15%



Consolidating below 10-wk line after sell signal.

14 CrowdStrike CRWD

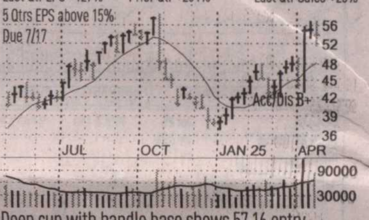
Grp11 **$424.88**
229.2 M Shares 99 Comp. Rating 92 EPS RS 96 ROE 35
Operates as a software company that develops security solutions in the United States.
+81% Ann. EPS Growth PE 108 Avg. D. Vol 4,686,600 Debt 23%
Last Qtr EPS +8% Prior Qtr +13% Last Qtr Sales +25%



Just past 5% buy zone from 400.02 handle entry.

15 Newmont NEM

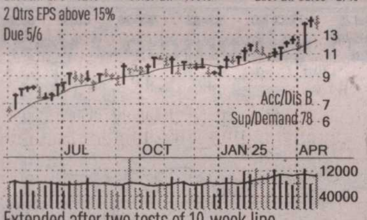
Grp1 **$53.94**
1115.6 M Shares 99 Comp. Rating 88 EPS RS 93 ROE 13
Produces gold in the U.S, Australia, Canada, Ghana, Peru, Suriname, Mexico, Argentina and Dominican Republic.
+11% Ann. EPS Growth PE 13 Avg. D. Vol 13,785,100 Debt 27%
Last Qtr EPS +127% Prior Qtr +204% Last Qtr Sales +25%



Deep cup with handle base shows 57.16 entry.

16 Kinross Gold KGC

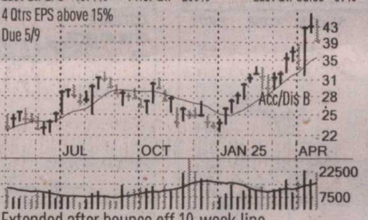
Grp1 **$14.49**
1216.8 M Shares 99 Comp. Rating 85 EPS RS 97 ROE 9
Canadian Co engaged in mining/processing gold, silver and copper in the U.S., Brazil, Chile
+83% Ann. EPS Growth PE 21 Avg. D. Vol 21,821,900 Debt 37%
Last Qtr EPS +82% Prior Qtr +100% Last Qtr Sales +27%



Extended after two tests of 10-week line.

17 Anglogold Ashanti AU

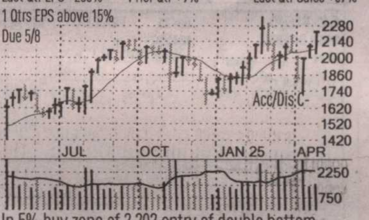
Grp1 **$39.60**
415.5 M Shares 99 Comp. Rating 80 EPS RS 97 ROE -6
South African gold producer with 11 operations in 9 countries located in Africa, Australia and the Americas.
PE 17 Avg. D. Vol 3,295,100 Debt 55%
Last Qtr EPS +1371% Prior Qtr +200% Last Qtr Sales +39%



Extended after bounce off 10-week line.

18 MercadoLibre MELI

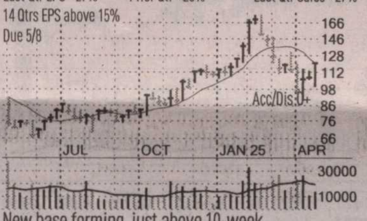
Grp60 **$2,225.85**
46.1 M Shares 98 Comp. Rating 98 EPS RS 95 ROE 51
Provides digital and technology tools that allow businesses and individuals to trade products and services.
+152% Ann. EPS Growth PE 59 Avg. D. Vol 490,800 Debt 66%
Last Qtr EPS +288% Prior Qtr +9% Last Qtr Sales +37%



In 5% buy zone of 2,202 entry of double bottom.

19 Cloudflare NET

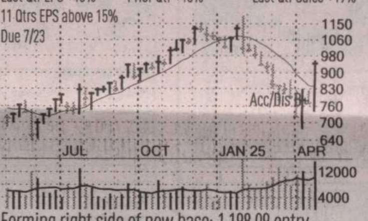
Grp33 **$121.00**
271.3 M Shares 98 Comp. Rating 97 EPS RS 94 ROE 29
Develops software for firewall, routing, traffic optimization, load balancing, and other network services.
+290% Ann. EPS Growth PE 161 Avg. D. Vol 4,069,800 Debt 123%
Last Qtr EPS +27% Prior Qtr +25% Last Qtr Sales +27%



New base forming, just above 10-week.

20 ServiceNow NOW

Grp33 **$945.26**
204.9 M Shares 98 Comp. Rating 97 EPS RS 77 ROE 33
Develops cloud-based IT software for workflow automation, data consolidation, business administration.
+37% Ann. EPS Growth PE 65 Avg. D. Vol 2,125,100 Debt 15%
Last Qtr EPS +18% Prior Qtr +18% Last Qtr Sales +19%



Forming right side of new base; 1,198.09 entry.

The Big Cap 20 is a computer-generated watch list of leading growth stocks. IBD uses earnings, sales & other fundamental facts plus strong price action to create your weekly snapshot. Do not buy a stock solely on it being in the list. Scan charts for stocks near buy points. See Investors.com to research stocks further. Be sure to read archived stories & analyze company with IBD's Stock Checkup.

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'Yes, Chef!' challenge heats up life's issues

Serial entrepreneur Martha Stewart and World Central Kitchen founder José Andrés dish personal advice to troubled cooks. **In Life**

USA TODAY
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APR 2 8 2025

DOJ memo a glimpse inside gang roundup

Administration directed pursuit without warrants

Nick Penzenstadler and Will Carless
USA TODAY

Trump administration officials directed law enforcement nationwide to pursue suspected gang members into their homes, in some cases without any sort of warrant, according to a copy of the directive exclusively obtained by USA TODAY.

The directive, issued March 14 by Attorney General Pam Bondi, provides the first public view of the specific implementation of the 1798 Alien Enemies Act invoked to deport migrants accused of being members of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua.

A day after that announcement, March 15, immigration officials apprehended and flew more than 200 Venezuelans to El Salvador's Terrorism Confinement Center, or CECOT, which has been criticized for its harsh and dangerous conditions.

For weeks, news organizations, members of Congress, the courts and advocates have pressed the administration to provide operational details and evidence to support its claims *these men are Tren de Aragua members*, a newly designated foreign terrorist organization.

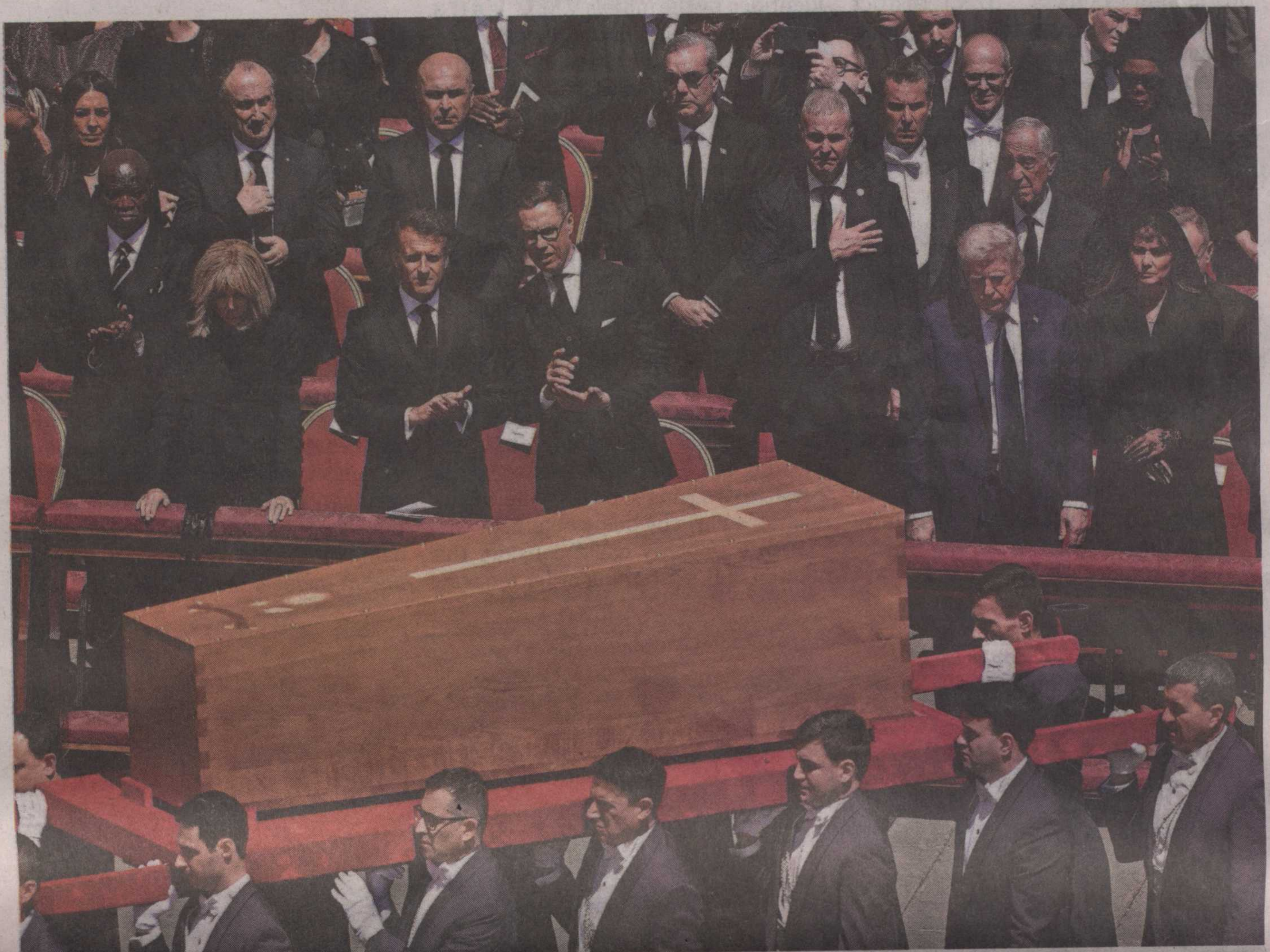
> **"By this standard, spurious allegations of gang affiliation means the government can knock down your door."**
>
> **Monique Sherman**
> Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network

The memo was provided to USA TODAY by the open government group, Property of the People, which they obtained through a records request.

Legal experts examined the document that reveals the following:

- It provides directives to front-line officers apprehending suspected Tren de Aragua members, suggesting officers obtain a warrant of apprehension and removal "as much as practicable." Those administrative warrants are signed by immigration officers, not judges like criminal warrants.
- Due to a "dynamic nature of law enforcement procedures" officers are free to "apprehend aliens" based on their "reasonable belief" they meet the definitions, the memo states.
- It purports to grant authority for

'AN OPEN HEART TOWARD EVERYONE'



President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump were among the world leaders and other dignitaries who attended Pope Francis' funeral April 26 at the Vatican. Former President Joe Biden also attended. DYLAN MARTINEZ/REUTERS

Presidents, royalty, pilgrims attend funeral Mass before Pope Francis is laid to rest

Susan Miller, Kim Hjelmgaard and Jeanine Santucci USA TODAY

Pope Francis, the humble pontiff whose acts of inclusiveness, modesty and mercy rippled through his 12-year papacy, was laid to rest April 26 in a service he deliberately simplified. • Hundreds of thousands of mourners and dozens of world leaders and dignitaries packed St. Peter's Square at the Vatican for the funeral. After the Mass, Francis' coffin was placed on an open-air popemobile and transported to the burial site by a motorcade that traversed the streets of Rome, lined by cheering crowds.

Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, 91, who presided over the funeral, lauded Francis in his homily as "a pope among the people, with an open heart toward everyone."

"He established direct contact with individuals and peoples, eager to be close to everyone, with a marked attention to those in difficulty, giving himself without measure, especially to the marginalized," he said.

He spoke in his homily of the pope's constant call to "build bridges, not walls" between people. The pope held a Mass on the U.S.-Mexico border to when he visited the area in 2016.

The cardinal also recalled that Francis' first ever foreign trip as pope was when he went to the Italian island of Lampedusa, a key spot in Europe's refugees and migrants crisis.

On April 27, hundreds of thousands of the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square to pay homage to Francis on the second of nine days the Vatican has set aside to mourn the beloved pontiff.

The crowd, estimated by Italian police at 200,000, included many young people, some of whom had planned to

Attention turns to selection of successor

Marc Ramirez
USA TODAY

With the passing of Pope Francis, who presided over the Roman Catholic Church and its estimated 1.4 billion followers for 12 years, attention now turns to the selection of his successor.

The decision is made through a time-honored process known as the conclave, an election conducted in secrecy behind the locked doors of the Vatican's Sistine Chapel.

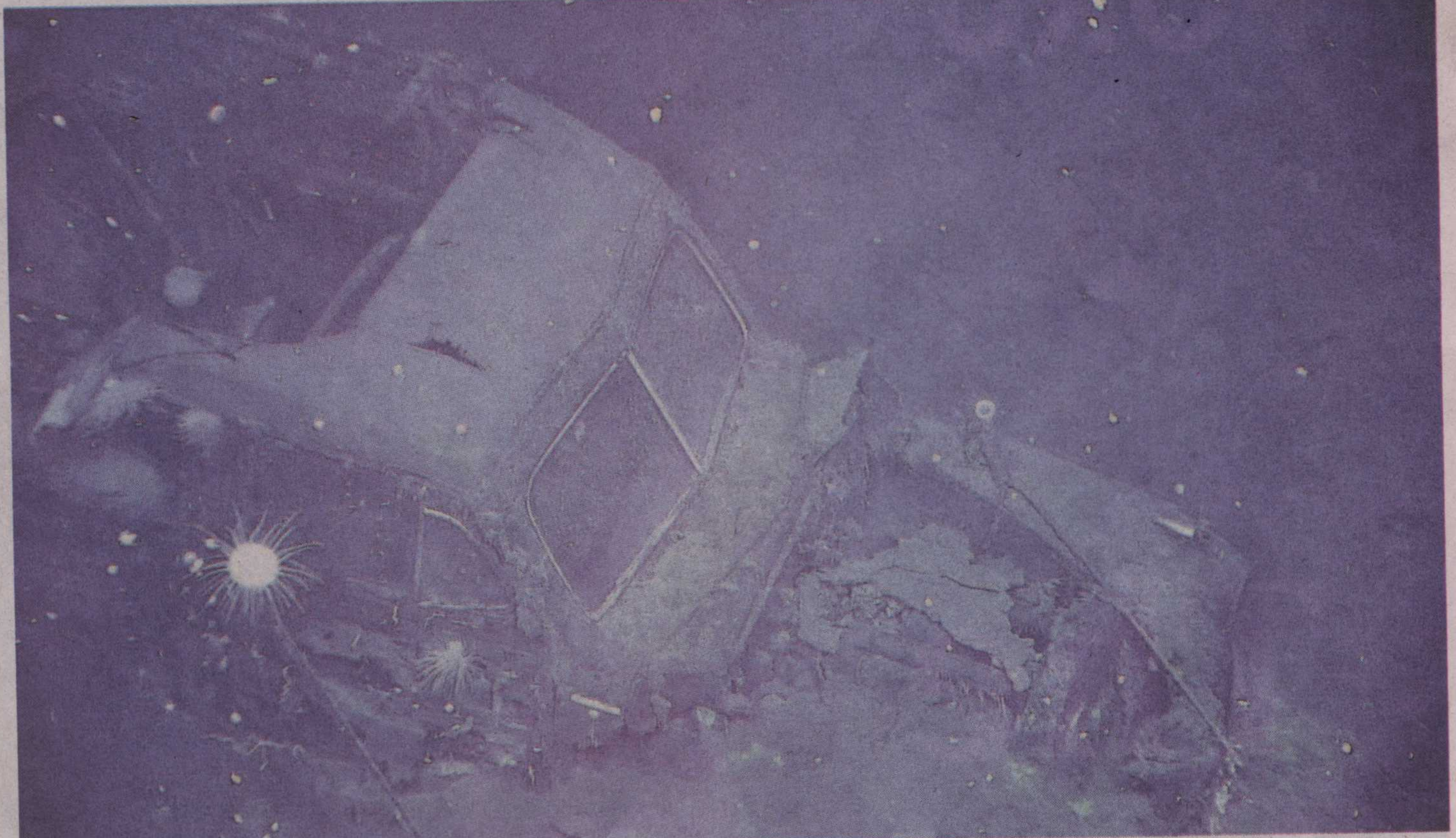
Conclaves are held only when the papacy is vacated, typically upon a pope's death or retirement. When Pope Benedict XVI; citing age and faltering health, stepped down from the post in 2013 after eight years as pontiff, it was the first time any pope had done so in nearly six centuries.

The resignation of Benedict, who died in 2022, prompted the conclave

Ford vehicle is found on sunken carrier

USS Yorktown damaged in the Battle of Midway

Eric Lagatta
USA TODAY



This automobile, likely a 1940-41 Ford Super Deluxe "Woody," in the hangar deck of USS Yorktown was photographed on the April 20 Papahanaumokuakea expedition dive. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY NOAA OCEAN EXPLORATION/2025 BEYOND THE BLUE

It seems fighter planes and bombers weren't the only vehicles aboard a famous U.S. Navy aircraft carrier that was sunk during World War II.

A crew exploring the USS Yorktown at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean recently came across the unexpected sight of a Ford automobile in the ship's hangar. The car was discovered April 19 in an ongoing monthlong expedition led by NOAA Ocean Exploration when the crew sent a remotely operated vehicle to explore the iconic Navy warship.

The Yorktown, which Japanese forces struck with torpedoes after the pivotal Battle of Midway in June 1942, has been explored several times since its final resting place was discovered in 1998. But the most recent operation was the first to delve into the ship's hangar.

The baffling sight of the car inside the hangar came amid a larger expedition led by a team from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The crew aboard a converted Navy vessel known as the Okeanos Explorer have since April 8 been mapping and exploring unexplored deepwater regions of Hawaii.

The Yorktown, which could hold up to 2,200 personnel and 90 aircraft, was part of several operations in World War II after it was commissioned in 1937.

Damaged in the Battle of the Midway – a seminal clash of sea and air power – the carrier ultimately was sunk when a Japanese submarine torpedoed the ship while it was being hauled back to Pearl Harbor. The Yorktown's resting place wasn't discovered until a expedition found it about 1,000 miles northwest of Honolulu in 1998.

The most recent glimpse of the Yorktown wreckage came April 19 and 20 when explorers on the NOAA expedition sent a remotely vehicle down to record new observations. The team expected to see marine life, wrecked aircraft and other features inside the carrier, but it wasn't expecting to come across a car.

A remotely-operated vehicle Deep Discoverer photographed the wreck of USS Yorktown during a dive on April 19 as part of the Papahanaumokuakea expedition.

After the vehicle first spotted the automobile while peering through the hangar deck from the Yorktown's port side, the crew sent it back the next day to get a better look.

That's what allowed the explorers to identify the car as a black 1940-41 Ford Super Deluxe, colloquially known as a "Woody." On the front license plate were the words "SHIP SERVICE ___ NAVY," according to NOAA.

That feature led the team to believe the car could have been reserved for Rear Adm. Frank Jack Fletcher; the Yorktown was his flagship in World War II. Ship Capt. Elliott Buckmaster or other crew members could even have used it while Yorktown was docked at foreign ports, NOAA's team guessed.

Questions remain, though, about why the car was stowed on the hangar deck at all when the ship's officers knew they were heading to Midway.

Also puzzling is why the vehicle wasn't jettisoned with anti-aircraft guns and aircraft in an attempt to salvage the listing ship after it was damaged in the fighting.

The Yorktown dive was part of a larger expedition in Papahanaumokuakea, a nationally protected area encompassing 583,000 square miles of ocean near the northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

During the exploration of the Yorktown, the team was able to image a famous hand-painted mural of a world map depicting the ship's voyages that had been only partially visible in historic photographs. The expedition also led to the first underwater discovery of aircraft at the Midway battle site.

Researchers even got a look at some of the marine life that has made the remnants of the carrier home.

The 28-day mission began April 8 and is due to end May 5. You can follow along with livestreams on the expedition's NOAA Ocean Exploration website.

MONEY

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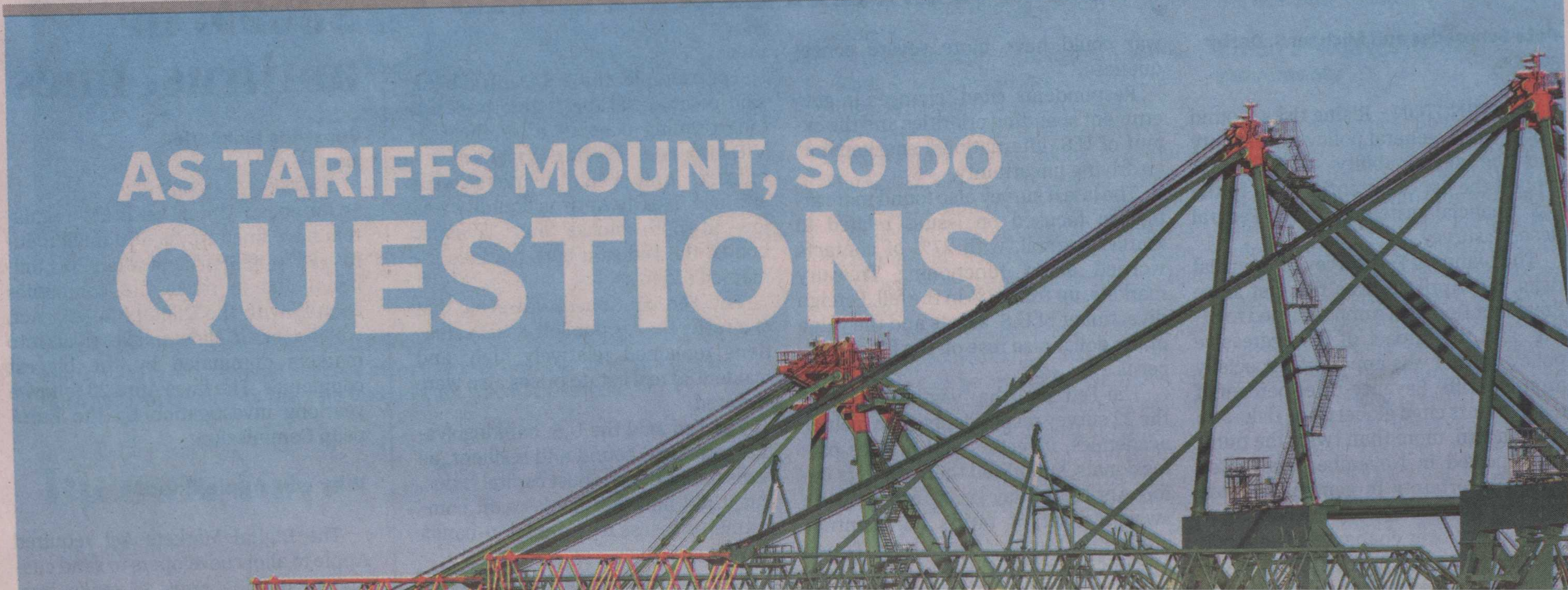
Musk's return to Tesla sparks relief, but fallout haunts it

Experts warned the brand faces a long road to recovery. **Page 2B**

You can check the headlines from your home state or city

We survey and compile the top news stories from all 50 states plus Washington, D.C. **Page 4B**



AS TARIFFS MOUNT, SO DO QUESTIONS

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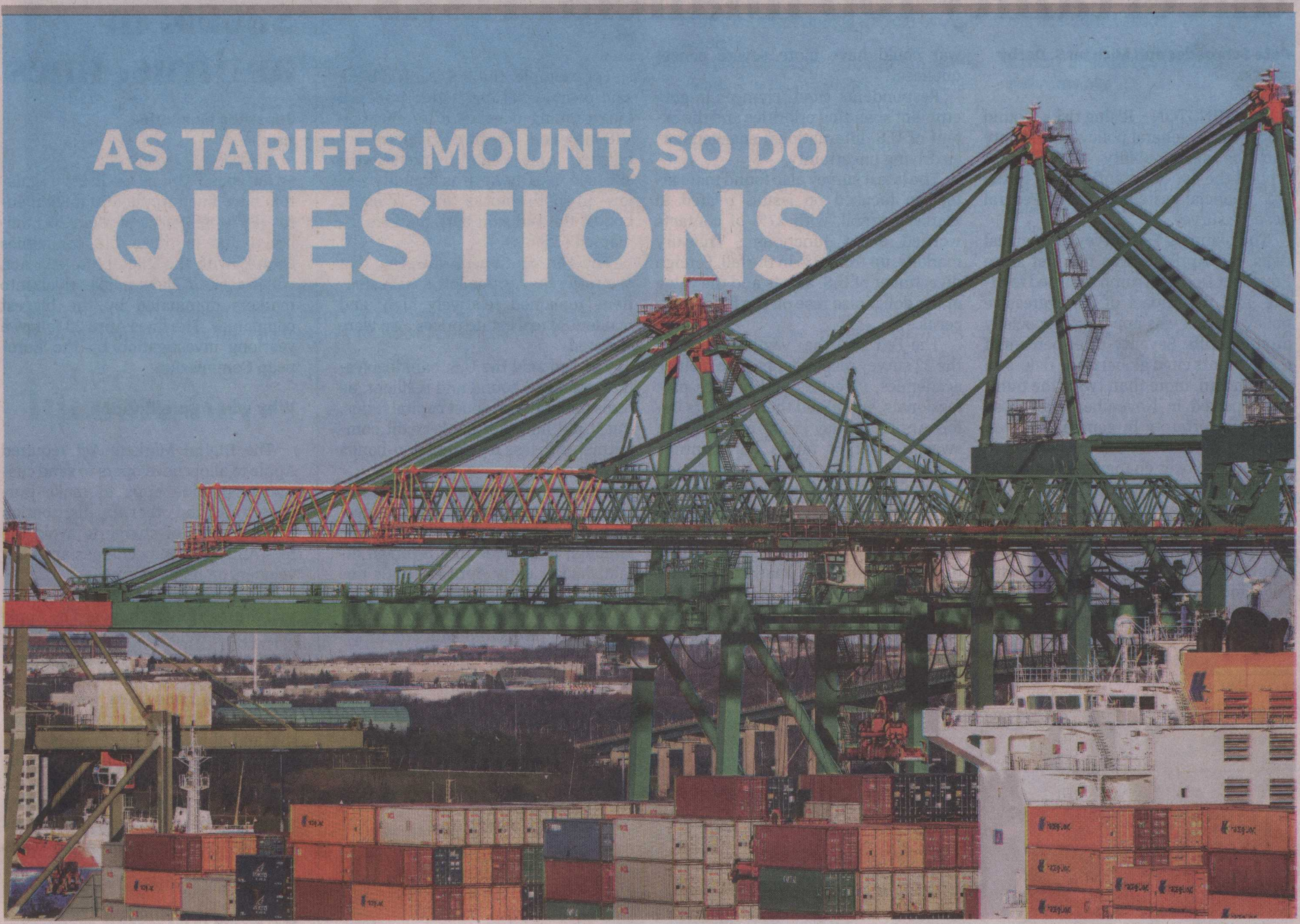


GETTY IMAGES

Can tariff revenue replace income tax?

Economists say levies would struggle to raise enough money

Bailey Schulz
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump has high aspirations for his tariffs, going so far as to suggest increased taxes on imports could replace income taxes.

"There's a real chance," he told Fox Noticias on April 15. "There is a chance that the money from tariffs could be so great that it would replace (the income tax)."

The idea may sound appealing, but economists who spoke to USA TODAY say Trump's tariffs would struggle to raise enough money to eliminate income taxes in full.

"A full replacement is absolutely, mechanically impossible. The math just doesn't work," said Erica York, vice president of federal tax policy at the Tax Foundation, a center-right think tank.

Can tariffs replace income taxes?

Consumers face an overall average effective tariff rate of 28%, the highest since 1901, according to the Yale Budget Lab.

Estimates for how much money these tariffs will bring in vary. Peter Navarro, Trump's senior counselor for trade and manufacturing, said they could bring in as much as $6 trillion over the next 10 years, or roughly $600 billion a year. The Yale Budget Lab said the tariffs would bring in less than half that, an estimated $2.4 trillion over the next decade.

See INCOME TAX, Page 3B

"You end up with this mathematical problem, that the more you increase the tariff rate, the more you drive down the tax base."

Kimberly Clausing
Nonresident senior fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics

Is economy headed for a recession?

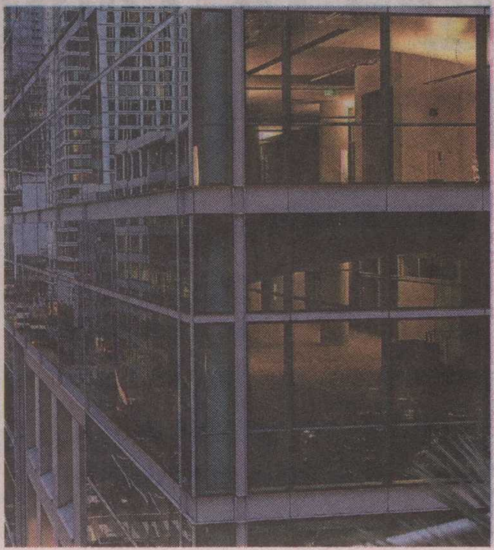
Several worrisome signs have emerged

Russ Wiles
Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

The scent of recession is in the air, with tariffs likely to cause some painful adjustments and slow the economy. Hardly a day goes by when some economist isn't raising his or her recession odds. We aren't in a recession yet, but several worrisome signs have emerged – some that might flash false alarms but others that could signal a slump ahead.

Look for more going-out-of-business liquidations, "for sale" signs lingering longer on homes in your neighborhood, spreading homeless encampments and other indicators of stress if the economy weakens from here. These conditions also have been apparent during good times, however,

See RECESSION, Page 3B



An office floor sits empty in downtown San Francisco as the city struggles to return to its pre-pandemic commercial real estate occupancy rates according to local media, in California, U.S.
CARLOS BARRIA/REUTERS

SPORTS

USA TODAY | MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2025 | SECTION C

Wide receiver and Heisman winner Travis Hunter is selected by the Jacksonville Jaguars as the No. 2 pick in the first round of the 2025 NFL Draft at Lambeau Field.

KIRBY LEE/IMAGN IMAGES

NFL DRAFT GRADES

Pats ace picks, no one worse than C-

What do Browns get for ceding Hunter, taking Shedeur?

Nate Davis

USA TODAY

Now complete, the 2025 NFL Draft will go down as one of the league's more memorable ones – though it's destined to mostly be remembered for Colorado quarterback Shedeur Sanders' free fall to the fifth round, which made Aaron Rodgers' infamous wait 20 years before seem like a mere glitch.

The Sanders saga aside, this draft also produced the drama, head-scratching decisions and OMG moments inherent to the annual "Player Selection Meeting." And speaking of any draft's endemic components, it's now time to prematurely grade its results ... about three years before that's a remotely fair exercise. But we eat from microwaves far more routinely than slow cookers, right?

One note about the report card methodology: As I grade each team, the goal is to pull back for a big-picture look at its performance holistically rather than judging from a narrow perspective that doesn't include trades and other considerations that more accurately frame the decisions.

With that in mind, here are your ridiculously hasty 2025 NFL Draft grades, with team classes ranked from best to worst:

1. New England Patriots (A)

A team that *had* to get a transfusion of offensive talent – regardless of circumstances, but especially to give QB Drake Maye a fighting chance in his second NFL season – wisely spent its first four picks on that side of the ball. First-round OT Will Campbell, second-round RB TreVeyon Henderson, third-round WR Kyle Williams and third-round C Jared Wilson will likely not only play significant snaps as rookies – even if they're not all necessarily starters – but could all have exceptional impacts. Henderson's could be the most noticeable given his ability to thrive on every down – though the large chunks he rips off as a runner and the protection he provides on passing downs should most benefit Maye.

2. New York Giants (A-)

They might have gotten the draft's best player in OLB Abdul Carter, who could be a reasonable facsimile of fellow Penn Stater Micah Parsons ... even if Carter doesn't understand he's not worthy of wearing GOAT OLB Lawrence Taylor's No. 56. But to get back into the first round for QB Jaxson Dart, essentially at the cost of two third-rounders and with no reason to play him prematurely with Russell Wilson and Jameis Winston round, might be the move that truly gets this franchise back on course ... while keeping head coach Brian Daboll and GM Joe Schoen in their posts. All that aside, good odds that bulldozing fourth-round RB Cam Skattebo winds up as the favorite pick of Big Blue's starved fans.

3. Las Vegas Raiders (A-)

No. 6 overall pick Ashton Jeanty was one of this draft's few apparent blue-chippers and should instantly catalyze what was the league's worst ground game in 2024. Aside from being inspirational, second-rounder Jack Bech might immediately emerge as new QB Geno Smith's top wide receiver. Third-rounders Darien Porter, a corner, and Charles Grant, an offensive tackle, could wind up as high-quality starters at mid-range draft cost. Seemingly nice debut by rookie GM John Spytek.

4. New York Jets (A-)

Notable that they hired a defensive-minded coach – and one of the best corners in franchise history – in Aaron Glenn only to opt for an offensive-centric draft, and one that seemed modeled on the Lions' blueprint Glenn saw work so well as their defensive coordinator. First-round RT Armand Membou and second-round TE Mason Taylor, son of former Jets OLB Jason Taylor, should either provide immediate help to new QB Justin Fields ... or whomever replaces him in a year or two. Third-round CB Azareye'h Thomas will be tested opposite Sauce Gardner but represents good value. Fourth-round WR Arian Smith is pure speed, which could open the field for Mason and WR Garrett Wilson. Glenn and rookie GM Darren Mougey nicely drove the fairway on their first tee shot.

5. Pittsburgh Steelers (B+)

Let's call this a progress report grade – at least until they officially have Rodgers in the building (though worth noting that HC Mike Tomlin didn't seem too worried about it during an NFL Network interview April 26). But assuming Rodgers ultimately arrives, he should walk into a locker room that's more talented than the version that qualified for the playoffs last season. First-round DL Derrick Harmon could be the next Cam Heyward, even as he plays alongside the perennial All-Pro in the short run. Fourth-round OLB Jack Sawyer should juice a pass rush that already had plenty of it beyond T.J. Watt and Alex Highsmith. But the real delta here could be

See DRAFT GRADES, Page 2C

Movies

Continued from Page 1D

‘Lilo & Stitch’ (May 23)

Whether animated or in “live action,” Experiment 626 – aka Stitch – is a lovably rambunctious rapscallion. Your favorite Elvis-loving fugitive alien is back on the big screen in the Disney redo, crashing down on our planet, befriending a lonely Hawaiian girl (newcomer Maia Kealoha) and becoming a part of her family.

‘Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning’ (May 23)

It’s not a real summer movie season until Tom Cruise is defying death for the cinematic experience. In the eighth (and what may be the last) “Mission,” his superspy Ethan Hunt teams with old friends and newer allies to keep a villainous AI and its human right-hand man (Esai Morales) from throwing the world into chaos.

‘Bring Her Back’ (May 30)

Australian directors Danny and Michael Philippou, the brothers behind the 2022 summer horror hit “Talk to Me,” are back with a domestic creeper. Billy Barratt and Sora Wong star as a brother and sister who move in with their new foster mother (Sally Hawkins) and discover a terrifying ritual going on at her secluded home.

‘Karate Kid: Legends’ (May 30)

The Miyagi-verse expands with the latest in the “Karate Kid” franchise. Sensei Daniel LaRusso (Ralph Macchio) is approached by Mr. Han (Jackie Chan) to help train kung fu prodigy Li Fong (Ben Wang). Relocated to New York City from China, the teen boy struggles to fit in and learns from both martial arts masters before a big tournament.

‘The Phoenician Scheme’ (May 30)

Wes Anderson’s latest film casts Benicio Del Toro as a wealthy European who entrusts the family business to his estranged nun daughter (Mia Threapleton, Kate Winslet’s daughter). A new venture makes them the target of terrorists, assassins and other tycoons in a comedy co-starring Tom Hanks, Jeffrey Wright, Michael Cera and Scarlett Johansson.

‘Ballerina’ (June 6)

The “John Wick” franchise spinoff features Ana de Armas as Eve, an orphaned child trained by a criminal organization to be a dancer and a ruthless assassin. The rookie killer goes rogue when she finds a chance for vengeance, leading to a faceoff between her and the legendary Baba Yaga himself, Wick (Keanu Reeves).

‘The Life of Chuck’ (June 6)

Based on the Stephen King novella, Mike Flanagan’s genre-bending character study about a seemingly ordinary accountant (Tom Hiddleston) involves a pair of schoolteachers (Chiwetel Ejiofor and Karen Gillan), a lovable grandpa (Mark Hamill), multiple dance sequences, a haunted attic and the apocalypse.

‘How to Train Your

Ruben (Javier Bardem, right) recruits old buddy Sonny (Brad Pitt) to join his race team in the drama “F1.”
PROVIDED BY WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Anna (Lindsay Lohan, center right) is caught in a four-way body swap with her soon-to-be stepdaughter Lily (Sophia Hammons) mom Tess (Jamie Lee Curtis) and daughter Harper (Julia Butters) in the fantasy comedy sequel “Freakier Friday.” PROVIDED BY ANDREW ECCLES/DISNEY

Lilo (Maia Kealoha) keeps an eye on her cool but unpredictable new alien buddy in Disney’s live-action “Lilo & Stitch.” PROVIDED BY DISNEY

‘F1’ (June 27)

In the racing drama directed by Joseph Kosinski (“Top Gun: Maverick”), Sonny Hayes (Brad Pitt) is a hired gun with a penchant for driving anything with four wheels. He’s recruited by old friend Ruben (Javier Bardem) to join his underdog Formula 1 race team and tapped to mentor a rookie prodigy (Damson Idris).

‘Jurassic World Rebirth’ (July 2)

The latest franchise installment

Bailey) sent to the island site of the original Jurassic Park to extract dinosaur DNA for a miracle drug. There, they find a shipwrecked human family and a host of extremely dangerous mutated monsters.

‘Superman’ (July 11)

James Gunn’s rebooted DC superhero universe begins in earnest with his hope-filled take on the Man of Steel. David Corenswet is the new man in Superman’s cape and (and Clark Kent’s glasses) in a movie also featuring journalist Lois Lane (Rachel

Reed Richards (Pedro Pascal) and Sue Storm (Vanessa Kirby) prepare to head into space in Marvel’s “The Fantastic Four: First Steps.”
PROVIDED BY JAY MAIDMENT/MARVEL STUDIOS

‘I Know What You Did Last Summer’ (July 18)

In the “requel” to the 1990s slasher franchise, a new crop of youngsters have covered up something bad they’ve done – in this case, a fatal car accident – and are being hunted by the deadly Hook Man. Fortunately, they get expert help from a pair of folks who have been there before: original stars Freddie Prinze Jr. and Jennifer Love Hewitt.

‘The Fantastic Four: First Steps’ (July 25)

Set in a retrofuturistic 1960s America, the latest Marvel adventure stars Pedro Pascal, Vanessa Kirby, Joseph Quinn and Ebon Moss-Bachrach as astronauts bombarded by cosmic rays in space who have returned home as national heroes with superpowers. They’ll need those powers to stave off the imminent arrival of planet-eating bad guy Galactus.

‘The Naked Gun’ (Aug. 1)

Liam Neeson trades steely stares for belly laughs in the cop spoof reboot as Lt. Frank Drebin Jr. The son of original “Gun” star Leslie Nielsen’s character is the new man in charge of Police Squad tasked with saving the world, dressing up as a schoolgirl and diving into puns, gags and buffoonery alongside Pamela Anderson.

‘Freakier Friday’ (Aug. 8)

50★States

News from across the USA

ALABAMA Birmingham: A woman was taken into custody in what police are calling a "domestic-related homicide" case. Witnesses told police Shatice Jackson ran over Mickese Bostic, "causing the vehicle to collide with him and his neighbor's house," the news release stated. The suspect and victim have children together.

ALASKA Juneau: President Donald Trump's energy security council plans to host a summit in Alaska in early June, when it hopes Japanese and South Korean officials will announce commitments to the Alaska LNG project, a source familiar with the matter said.

ARIZONA Chandler: High school students in an East Valley district can now participate in an innovative cybersecurity clinic supported by Google and the University of Arizona. The clinic is being offered at Basha and Arizona College Preparatory high schools, supplementing Chandler Unified School District's existing four-year cybersecurity programs at Basha and Chandler high schools.

ARKANSAS Russellville: Arkansas Tech University students will see a tuition and fees increase beginning next fall after the ATU Board of Trustees approved the university's 2025-26 operating budget.

CALIFORNIA Monterey County: A pilot program that targets illegal dumping in Monterey County is fully operational, according to the county health department. Six cameras have been installed in areas officials have identified as being chronically visited by illegal dumpers.

COLORADO Denver: A "mega den" of Colorado rattlesnakes are ready for their day in the sun. Some snakes have started to emerge from their winter hibernation to bask in the spring sun on the rocky Colorado hillside they call home. Like last year, their movements are streamed live on Project RattleCam.

CONNECTICUT Mashantucket: Gordon Ramsay's Connecticut restaurant is getting a new executive chef. Starting on May 1, Hell's Kitchen at Foxwoods Resort Casino will be taken over by Kyle Timpson, Season 23 winner of "Hell's Kitchen."

DELAWARE Dover: Delaware is upgrading its Enhanced 911 system to include features that will allow callers to stream live video, send photos and use real-time text translation during emergencies.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Washington: The popular Running of the Chihuahuas is set to return for its 13th year on May 3 at the District Pier, WUSA reported.

FLORIDA Orlando: Orlando Health has agreed to provide $10 million over the next seven years to help cover the added costs to other health care providers related to its closing of Rockledge Hospital. Orlando Health also said it would return the land the hospital sits on to the city of Rockledge after tearing down the building.

GEORGIA Augusta: An alumni of

HIGHLIGHT: VERMONT

University of Vermont Children's Hospital's neonatal intensive care unit is using new smart bassinets to help infants suffering from opioid exposure.

PROVIDED BY RYAN MERCER/UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT HEALTH NETWORK

Burlington: Nurses in the neonatal intensive care unit at University of Vermont Children's Hospital are now using so-called smart bassinets, which have built-in technology and sensors to help opioid-exposed infants relax and sleep longer – vital to their health. When a baby starts to fuss or cry, the bassinet responds by using or increasing white noise or calming music and rocking motions to soothe the baby, according to a hospital spokesperson. It took months of planning to incorporate the smart bassinets into the NICU's care of infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome, a group of conditions which occurs when a baby withdraws from certain drugs they were exposed to in the womb, most often opioids.

KANSAS Topeka: Former patients, employees, students and current friends will gather in Topeka in early May to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the Menninger Clinic.

KENTUCKY Louisville: A University of Louisville spokesperson confirmed a graduation ceremony for LGBTQ+ students was canceled amid new federal and state policies calling on schools to end diversity, equity and inclusion practices.

LOUISIANA Baton Rouge: Louisiana teachers are likely to take a pay cut next year as the state faces a budget deficit and voters rejected an amendment that would have carved out money for annual stipends moving forward.

MAINE Portland: Police reported an increase in drug overdose cases in the city, News Center Maine reported.

MARYLAND Princess Anne: Peraton, a national security company with branches across the United States, has announced a "mass layoff" at its Princess Anne facility, according to the latest Maryland WARN notice. According to the notice, the "mass layoff - no recall" will impact 49 employees at the Princess Anne facility. The notice said word went out to employees on April 16, and the layoff date is April 30.

MASSACHUSETTS Leicester: A former elementary school could soon be transformed into the first supportive-living community for women and children affected by divorce in Massachusetts. The Sparrow Collective offers financial sustainable housing with other services to help women transition through divorce by providing housing, fi-

MISSOURI Springfield: Zachary Stockton is the first student in the history of Drury University to win the prestigious Truman Scholarship.

MONTANA Helena: The state Department of Public Health and Human Services has announced the launch of a $6.5 million grant program that would help communities develop and expand forensic stabilization services, KPAX reported.

NEBRASKA Omaha: The Nebraska Army National Guard has opened two new facilities – one in Mead and the other in Bellevue, WOWT reported.

NEVADA Lovelock: Interim U.S. Attorney for Nevada Sigal Chattah announced that an investigation is underway after allegations of misappropriation of funds for the Lovelock project that would bring high-speed internet access to the area, KOLO reported.

NEW HAMPSHIRE Exeter: The Exeter Police Department earned national accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, joining an elite group of 18 municipal law enforcement agencies in New Hampshire to achieve this distinction.

NEW JERSEY Trenton: New Jersey sued the property management software company RealPage, accusing it and 10 of the state's largest landlords of conspiring to drive up residential rents, violating federal and state antitrust laws and New Jersey consumer fraud laws.

NEW MEXICO Santa Fe: A New Mexico State Police Officer who saved a newborn's life in 2023 is one of four recipients across the nation of the 2025 Axon RISE Awards, KRQE reported.

OHIO Dayton: Dayton is shaking off its gritty, rust belt image and getting ready to host its first major international event in 30 years when the NATO Parliamentary Assembly holds a four-day meeting in Ohio in May. More than 1,000 visitors – diplomats, staff, journalists and guests – from dozens of countries are expected to attend the meeting from May 22-26.

OKLAHOMA Oklahoma City: Citing "uncertainty in the state and federal arts funding landscape," the Oklahoma Arts Council has suspended the 2025 Oklahoma Arts Conference, a biennial gathering of hundreds of professionals, students and volunteers working in the state's creative industries.

OREGON Aurora: The city of Aurora has sued the Oregon Aviation Department to prevent the state from submitting a master plan for the Aurora State Airport to the Federal Aviation Administration for approval. The city argues in its lawsuit that Oregon's land use processes would be bypassed if the master plan is approved by the FAA and adopted by the Oregon Aviation Board.

PENNSYLVANIA Erie: Erie County health officials said they believe a recent measles outbreak that has infected eight people might be contained. They are the first reported measles cases among county residents since 1991. None of the eight county residents infected has required hospitalization.

RHODE ISLAND Newport: The Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority is working on the National Transportation Safety Board's request to figure out how vulnerable the Pell Bridge is to collapse from vessel collisions.

SOUTH CAROLINA Gaffney: The Limestone University Board of Trustees announced that a decision on whether to close the school at the end of the academic year has been postponed. Trustees believe there may be a way for the school to get through its ongoing financial crisis.

SOUTH DAKOTA Sioux Falls: The Barrel House and its nonprofit Hungry Hearts surpassed their mission to match up to $100,000 in donations to the Sioux Falls School District's Angel Fund to clear student meal debt.

TENNESSEE Jackson: The recipient of a $10 million grant, the Jackson Regional Airport continues to make momentous strides with flying colors. The grant will assist in the airport's infrastructure expansion plans by supporting corporate growth, general aviation, and regional economic development.

TEXAS Lubbock: The traveling Godeke Library finally has a permanent home. The Lubbock City Council unanimously approved two items that would provide the Godeke Library with a permanent home while also saving taxpayers some money.

UTAH St. George: Planned Parenthood announced that its clinic in St. George is closing on May 2 after the

Trump administration froze $2.8 mil-

UTV reported.

multi-million

lier this year

h Care Inc.

portedly injured

's fitness cen-

d, court files

idge Island:

School District

been named the new leader of Revelyst Precision Sports Technology, a company that develops high-tech performance solutions for pro and amateur athletes.

HAWAII Honolulu: A Waianae eighth grader will travel to Washington, D.C., in July to represent Hawaii at the national Do the Write Thing summit,

nancial and literacy education and planning, legal guidance, career counseling and spiritual support.

MICHIGAN Lansing: Michigan's cannabis regulator told state lawmakers that the marijuana industry is under strain from falling prices, illicit market activity and the rise of unregulated, intoxicating hemp-derived products that compete with licensed cannabis businesses.

break ground on a big natural foods plant on the Triangle property at the Griffiss Business and Technology Park in Rome, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced. The facility will cost $1.2 billion, and it will be 1.4 million square feet in size. The plant will be able to produce more than 1 billion pounds of dairy products a year. Once it reaches full capacity, the facility will process more than

NEW YORK Rome: Chobani will

lion in Title X funds, K

VIRGINIA Staunton: A

dollar lawsuit filed ear

against Augusta Healt

after a woman was rep

in a fall at the hospital

ter has been dismissed

show.

WASHINGTON Bainbr

The Bainbridge Island